We the People

A Magazine for Pennsylvanians

I HAVE SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF MY PEOPLE AND HAVE HEARD THEIR CRY AND I WILL REDEEM THEM WITH A STRETCHED OUT ARM AND WITH GREAT ~ JUDGEMENTS ~

In this Issue . . .

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

(Senate Blind to People's Needs, Obeys Big Business Dictates)

August 1, 1936 **Volume 1, No. 12** **Price 10c**

Boosts Dividend 167 Pct.

Du Pont Net Up In Half-Year to $3.27 a Share

Compares With $1.74 for Similar Period of 1935; Reynolds Spring Gains

CITIES REPORT GAINS IN BANK CLEARINGS

Pittsburgh Shows 36.1 Per Cent Increase Over 1935

NET EARNINGS FOR HALF YEAR REACH NEW PEAK

Company to Pay $4 in September Compared With $1.50 in June.

CLEAR OF DEBTS

Bank Loan of $10,000,000 Retired—Profits Up More Than 50 Pct.

WHOLESALE BUYING IS BEST SINCE 1929

Statistical Agencies Set Half-Year Retail Trade at Six-Year Peak.

With retail trade for the first half of this year recorded the best since 1930, most wholesale orders were crowded this week than since 1929. These were the conclusions of two statistical agencies yesterday.

Trust Reports Net Assets Up For 6 Months

Standard Investing Total at $68.40 a Share of Preferred, Against $52.88

Standard Investing Corporation reports as of June 30 that its assets, including cash, securities and other items after deduction of all current liabilities except bank debt, had an aggregate market value of $7,714,-939,901,000 debentures for $1,000,000 bank indebtedness, notes payable on December 1, 1936, were $8,802,700 of 5½ per cent $9,696,000 debentures

BUDD PROFITS FOR HALF-YEAR SHOW BIG RISE

June Quarter Earnings Nearly Triple Those of Year Ago.

BALDWINS REPORT

DIVIDEND BOOSTED BY WESTINGHOUSE

Consolidated Oil Starts New Policy of Quarterly Payments.

By Associated Press

NEW YORK, June 24.—Directors of Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company today boosted the dividend rate with declaration of a 50 cent on the common

Member Bank Earning Assets Up 852 Million

Demand Deposits Adjusted, Also Rise $116,000,000; N. Y. Broker Loans Gain

From the Associated Press Bureau.

WASHINGTON, July 20.—The consolidated statement of weekly reporting member banks in 101 leading cities on July 15 shows increases for the week of $852,000,000 in total loans and investments, $45,000,000 in reserve balances with Federal Reserve Banks, $600,000 in demand deposits adjusted and $20,000,000 in deposit balances owing to the credit of do-

EARNINGS OF BANKS IN DISTRICT GROW

Exceed Dividend Needs by Average of 45 Percent.

Philadelphia banks, in the eye of low money rates and in spite of large unemployed funds are showing earning power, which is the conclusion of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia as set forth in a tabulation made yesterday. The tabulation shows that net earnings of 12 local banks are about 45 percent in excess of dividend requirements, with the high-est percent being given. The computes net earnings for the banks from the amount of increase in their surplus and profits plus dividend payments. On this basis, the earnings of the 12 Philadelphia banks are indicated as $13,515,760 for the year ended June 30, which is equivalent to about 35¼ percent on their combined capital of $38,101,000. Dividend payments during the period totaled $9,336,-

POWER OUTPUT FOR WEEK SETS ALL-TIME HIGH

3,000,000 K. W. Increase Runs Counter to Usual for Season.

GAINS WIDESPREAD

Rising Demand for Steel and Other Industrial Products Noted.

The highest level ever recorded was reached in electrical power production, an important business barometer, in the week ending June 20, figures of the Edison Electric Institute showed yesterday.

REPORTS SHOW BETTER PROFITS

Airbrake Earns 27 Cents a Share Compared With 16 In First Quarter

EARNINGS GAIN BY RAILS SPURS CAR PURCHASES

MR. LANDON SPEAKING:

"The Time Has Come To Stop Fumbling With Recovery"

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MR. WEIR'S SENATE RELIEF BLOCKADE

In Which Is Revealed The Real Reason Why The Overlords Of Steel Are Fighting Relief Taxes

OVER the Republican side of the State Senate Chamber there is a quotation lettered on the wall. It says:

"I have seen the affliction of my people and I have heard their cry, and I will redeem them with a stretched out arm and with great judgments."

It must make even the most hard-shelled Senatorial servants of the great corporations blush at times when they look up from their task of killing bills for relief, and hamstringing bills for unemployment insurance, and see those words blazoned across the wall.

But perhaps those servants of the interests are so used to misreading the handwriting on the wall that they believe their acts constitute "great judgments."

Apparently they are so blind to the handwriting on the wall that they think they can make suckers out of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Certainly to serve the corporate masters long blinds a Senator to the honorable performance of his duties.

An example is in the relief deadlock which continued long after the Republican masters had made a "gentlemen's agreement" binding themselves to raise $45,000,000 for relief. Gentlemen's agreements apparently have no meaning to the Pews, the Grundys, the Weirs, and their Senatorial servants.

Seats in the Senate gallery, and the space around the floor, are crowded daily by citizens who have come to see what the State of Pennsylvania is doing.

It is an exciting show sometimes. But more and more the citizens of Pennsylvania are coming to realize that the real law-making for the citizens of this State does not take place on the floor of the Senate.

Legislation actually has its birth—its aborted birth—in the Republican majority caucus rooms, or in hotel parlors, while the emissaries of Grundy, Pew, Weir and Mellon, or even those gentlemen in person, appear to tell the Senators what the will of their corporate masters is.

It is a fascinating, if noisome and disgusting, study to lower oneself down through the manhole of the Senate to the drains below its false activities, and there watch the huge corporations and various interests fighting among themselves to see which can shift a tax to the other. You understand then that the long caucuses and committee meetings that keep Senators off the floor only reflect the bitter feuds that go on between industrialists as they jockey for advantage. Their savage snarls, clawing and biting are transmitted to caucus as "oil senators," "steel senators," "utility senators," and "manufacturers' senators" strive to follow out the tactics of their overlords.

But even more instructive is to dive into the sub-sewers even deeper than the industrialists' desires to avoid taxes—to plunge down to the hidden reasons why they want a certain tax, why they fight with fury against another, why they are willing to trade off at some times, and refuse to trade at others.

Some of the most instructive sewer-dredging may be done in the reasons why Economic Royalist J. Howard Pew of Sun Oil Company and Economic Royalist Ernest Tener Weir of National Steel Corporation have gotten together to block the relief program in the State Senate.

Mr. Pew and Mr. Weir are alike in many respects.

Both are extremely successful men, really go-getting businessmen. Both are hard, cold, contemptuous of those not so successful as themselves. Both believe in the absolute justness of the maxim, "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost." Both men are young in politics—a few years ago each reached that degree of success and that age when a wealthy businessman turns to art, philanthropy or politics. Weir began emerging as a Republican leader in Pennsylvania when he and his attorney Earl F. Reed smashed the Weirton employes' attempts to organize under NRA, and began the fight on NRA itself. Pew emerged through his big contributions to the American Liberty League. Each has suddenly come to the top of the GOPolitical pile, elbowing aside such oldsters as Grundy and Mellon. Each is a big contributors to the Landon campaign this year.

Want Club To Swing On Unionizing Workers

The two of them, new and energetic in politics, have cooperated pretty closely during the present Special Session.

ERNEST TENER WEIR

Starvation is a Steel Tactic

Mr. Pew's special representative during the Senate fight against adequate relief has been Eric Biddle—the same Eric Biddle who was Governor Pinchot's Relief Administrator.

Recently Emissary Biddle gave away the reason why Mr. Pew and Mr. Weir have been holding up the relief program—causing some 500,000 Pennsylvanians to face hungry days every week or so because of the slipsohd temporary borrowing of relief money from the State's fast ebbing special funds.

At a conference on the relief program Emissary Biddle revealed that—Pew and Weir did not object to "a few million dollars one way or another" in taxes. But Steelman Weir wanted to make certain that relief funds were so tied down that, when the steel companies forced their workers into a lockout, as is apparently the American Iron & Steel Institute's plan (see Page 4), there could be no relief funds for the steel workers. It is to this end that Weir and his ally Pew have tried to put relief back on the counties; it is to this end that they have tried to have funds allocated by counties.

It is the deep-laid plans of the steel barons to enflame the men so that they will go out on a spontaneous strike; then to charge the workers with violence and terrorism; to lock them out; and to starve them into submission—thus killing this greatest attempt to organize the steel industry.

It has mattered not at all to the Steel Royalists that in laying down the tactics for their campaign, they have pushed 500,000 Pennsylvania men, women and children to the brink of starvation again and again during the past few months.

Just as these steel barons, stern believers in the jungle law of survival of the fittest, would cheerfully starve their workmen into submission rather than see a union formed, so now when the unemployed cry out for bread, they answer cynically like Marie Antoinette of the French Revolution: "Let them eat cake."

Who is this Ernest Tener Weir who thus dictates whether the unemployed shall eat tomorrow or go hungry tomorrow?

The answer is simple.

Ernest Tener Weir maintains a home in Pittsburgh. But his businesses do not lie in Pennsylvania.His plants are in Weirton, W. Va., Steubenville, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan.

He is acting in the Pennsylvania State Senate not as a citizens, but as a steel baron. He is acting as representative of an industry through which Governor Alfred Mossman Landon is tied by blood, through his uncle, William Mossman of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. It is interesting to note that Landon refused to deny that he told a Kansas State Senator that $1.08 was enough relief for a family of three to live on for a week.

Ernest Tener Weir, acting as an emissary of the steel companies, plainly proves that Steel believes, even if the Supreme Court does not, that wages are an interstate business. Thus a West Virginia steelman reaches into Pennsylvania Legislature to prevent steel workers from unionizing to bargain for fair wages.

That Ernest Tener Weir is a successful man so far as making money goes, no one can deny. He built up a big business with his own energy and brains. He draws large dividends, plus a salary-&-bonus of $160,000 a year. He is a business success.

But in the business of living as a social being —as a member of the society of mankind—as a fellow man—Ernest Tener Weir has shown himself a gross failure.

As an up-&-coming youth, he left the employ of a steel company when it was made a part of U. S. Steel. He preferred to make his own way. He has made his way. He founded Weirton Steel Company—and it prospered. In 1929 he threw it into a merger that enthroned him as chairman of National Steel Coporation—and National Steel made money all during the depression, while other companies floundered. Its profits in the past few years, as the country emerged from depression under Roosevelt, have been enormous.

If you asked the steel barons who, in their opinion, was the ablest steel master today, they would have a hard time choosing between tough-fisted Ernest Tener Weir of National Steel Corporation, and equally tough-fisted Tom Mercer Girdler of Republic Steel Corporation.

But Ernest Tener Weir must be tough-grained indeed if he does not pause at times to count the callouses this success has worn on his soul.

His company owns absolutely the town of Weirton, W. Va., where his Weirton mills stand. He owns the land, he owns the buildings, he controls the townspeople—and he had never permitted them to incorporate this good-sized community. As far as running its own affairs goes, Weirton might be right off the map. Its police are the mill police—and Mr. Weir's words are the law.

He has been "good" to his own way of thinking.

He gave the community a swimming pool, and had himself photographed diving into it.

But its water must taste bitter to the workers who dwell under E. T. Weir's thumb, and who live in Weirton's stern gloom while Mr. Weir desports himself in the blue waters of Bermuda, where he has built a palatial home.

(Continued on page 14)

STEEL UNIONIZATION IN PROGRESS

Meantime Steel Masters Begin War Of Reprisal

THE Steel Workers Organizing Committee is making progress. The SWOC was set up when the Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers invited John Llewellyn Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization, made up of twelve unions, to organize the steel industry for it along industrial lines.

¶Few weeks ago an entire company union in one of Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation's Chicago-area plants, a company union of some 3,000 men, joined Amalgamated in a body. Carnegie-Illinois is a U. S. Steel subsidiary.

¶Last week representatives from twelve Pittsburgh-area plants voluntarily walked into the Committee's Grant Building headquarters in Pittsburgh to pledge their co-operation, and their intention of swinging the plants into the union.

¶Sunday fortnight ago a meeting held just outside Aliquippa drew 4.000 of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation's 10,000 Aliquippa employes. Many others would have come—but were still fearful of the police and spy system which has made this J. & L. town notorious among labor as the "Siberia of the Steel Industry."

¶Last week employes of the McKeesport Tin Plate Company told the Organizing Committee that Tin Plate was attempting to coerce its employes into signing a petition against the union. When the committee exposed this attempt, Tin Plate hastily dropped its scheme.

In the SWOC's steady march toward unionization, these last two items had special significance.

For McKeesport and Aliquippa are examples

EDWIN ROBERT CRAWFORD
$750-a-day President of McKeesport Tin Plate.

of the steel masters' life-and-death battle to break the union drive.

Only a few weeks ago, at both McKeesport and Aliquippa, it was shown that the steel barons were afraid to let even such a national magazine as Time, which certainly cannot be accused of being a burning partisan of labor, look into the real facts of the steel labor situation.

When Paul Peters, author and writer for Time and Fortune, went with one of his staff photographers to get pictures at McKeesport of the steel plants there, company police called in the town police. Peters was placed under what the police called "detention." Taken to the McKeesport police headquarters, he was grilled for a half hour. He was released with the warning that no one could take pictures without a permit from the mayor. His picture taking interfered with local photographers. Besides, they told him, the men didn't like the idea of having their pictures taken as they came from the mill.

Few days later the same sort of incident was repeated in Aliquippa. Again mill police called in town police. Again Peters was hauled into police headquarters, together with his photographer. Again he was released only after lengthy questioning, and after Pittsburgh newspapermen had used their influence to have him released. Again he was warned to take no more pictures.

McKeesport and Aliquippa are both towns dominated by steel. And in Aliquippa especially,

Weapons: Lies, Spies, Thugs, Firings, Attempts To Egg Men Into Spontaneous Revolt

everything possible is being done to kill off the union movement.

Aliquippa. This town of 30,000 can with justice be called a company town. There five miles of Jones & Laughlin mills stretch along the riverfront, and J & L squats on land belonging to the State (We the People, April 18). There J & L owns 600 houses, the town's water system, its street railway system. There toil 10,000 J & L workmen, who are directly dependent, as the other citizens are indirectly dependent, on J & L's mills. There J & L has a company police force, which may often be seen in the town proper. There it controls the municipal government, as it usually controls the Republican Beaver county officials. On Aliquippa's Plot 12 live the company's executives. Elsewhere in comparative squalor, dwell its workmen.

It is natural that in such a situation every unholy influence should be exerted to choke off the union movement. Aliquippa is the town from which, three years ago, an Amalgamated unionizer was railroaded to the insane asylum until the State stepped in and had him released. In Aliquippa, according to a Labor Board report on 1933-34 conditions: "Officers of the union and organizers who came into Aliquippa were followed about by the private police of the company. The more important union officers were honored by the police with permanent shadows." According to the Board's report, the Jones & Laughlin plan of employe representation (company union) was never put to a vote. It was imposed on the workers.

This imposition takes meaning in view of the campaign of villification, distortion, and hatemongering undertaken by J & L in Aliquippa.

These campaign documents appear in the company-controlled Aliquippa Gazette, and in handbills being circulated within the mill itself. The handbills illustrate the evil technique to which Steel will descend at its worst.

Cries one, printed on paper the color of blood:

"UNION RACKET EXPOSED. The stand of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation in the matter of the Union," it continues, "is clear. This company is against the closed shop and will

WILLIAM MOSSMAN
Jones & Laughlin lobbyist, uncle of Alfred Mossman Landon.

not tolerate on its payroll those who agitate labor trouble in the mill nor will the mill operate with workmen organized by the Lewis racketeers, trouble makers, and communists.

"The $30,000,000 plant now being erected in Pittsburgh was lost to Aliquippa through labor agitation, and the value of every dwelling dropped 30 cents on the dollar.

"Your Employe Representation Plan is not run by outsiders who demand tribute from you for the right to work.

"Open shop means Pay Days, closed shop means No Pay Days.

"Have someone estimate what the value of your property or business would be if Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation closed their plants. And the plants will close if the Union and communistic agitation continues in our community."

Lie No. 1: The $30,000,000 new plant has been planned for several years. It was announced long ago that it would be built in Pittsburgh. The union drive had nothing to do with its location.

Correct statement: The company union is not run by outsiders. In fact, it is not run by the workers at all, who can get nothing through it, but by the company officials.

Threat No. 1: In its statement about "No Pay Days" and about the plant closing down if unionized, J & L means that it will not hesitate to lock its workers out if they demand their American right of collective bargaining.

In a second broadside, signed by a Dr. H. S. Gilliland and purporting to come from a Committee of Five Hundred, a citizens' group stooging for J & L, the company descends to even viler stuff. It blazons its scurrility: "John L. Lewis vs. Steel Industry." It says:

"My name is John L. Lewis. I do not work

HORACE EDWARD LEWIS
President of Jones & Laughlin, whose Aliquippa is "Siberia to labor."

in a steel mill—I am a blood sucker. I demand that you work for me. You will pay me tribute or you will not work. I am determined to be chief Racketeer of the United States.

"I demand that you strike and that you and your family go hungry when I issue the order—I must call strikes to show that I am great.

"I have ruined the miners, but I promise not to ruin you until I have you in my power."

Such childish, such lying, such blood-thirsty tactics show the ignorance of the Steel Barons in human relationships. It shows that they will hesitate at nothing to break the union. The statement, though signed by Dr. Gilliland, shows the earmarks of J & L's publicity chieftain, William Mossman, uncle of Alfred Mossman Landon.

Actually, while the Steel Workers Organizing Committee desires nothing more than a peaceful campaign, the Steel Barons want to force the workers into a strike, so they can employ brute violence to break it.

J & L has already fired 14 men for union activity. Their average length of employment with the company was 13 years. One had worked 26 years; another 26. The latter had lost an eye in the employment of J & L.

J & L has had thugs parading in front of union headquarters ever since they opened. Its company bullies walk the streets. Spies congregate at every meeting. No union meeting can be held anywhere in Aliquippa. This in "free America." (Continued on page 14)

PENNSYLVANIA'S PENSIONED JUDGES

Example: The Three Roberts; Representatives of Big Business Before, During, And After Their Terms; Paid In Little, Draw Huge Pensions

LAST week former Superior Court Judge Robert S. Gawthrop began his services as attorney for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Again Pennsylvania had impressed in its mind that its Republican judges on high court benches are drawing fat pensions from the State—while at the same time thousands of aged lack pensions because the Republican Supreme Court decided that while pensions were constitutional for judges, they were unconstitutional for the run of people.

Judge Gawthrop did not attain the Supreme Court. He was not with Justice Robert S. Frazer and Justice Robert von Moschzisker, both former Chief Justices, when those eminent jurists declared Old Age Pensions unconstitutional, just four years before the judges lobby, in 1929, railroaded through an amendment to the Retirement Act permitting judges to enjoy the full benefit of retirement pensions even though they began paying into retirement funds just before they left office.

Former Chief Justice Robert von Moschzisker,

JUDGE ROBERT VON MOSCHZISKER
Pension: $783 per month. He battles taxes for chain stores.

who now enjoys a lucrative practice as a big business and utilities lawyer, receives a pension of $783.18 for life. He joined up in the pension fund just before he retired from the bench, paying in a total of $1,022.92.

Former Chief Justice Robert S. Frazer, who owed his seat on the bench to the Mellons, receives $837.91 a month from the taxpayers. He paid a total of $169.66 to the State Employes' Retirement Fund, which he joined only during his last days in office.

Another recipient of this State largesse—taxpayers' money—is Judge Gawthrop. In 1922 Judge Benedict Head resigned from the Superior Court. Although Judge Head had been elected by a Democratic majority, Governor Sproul picked Republican Gawthrop to fill his place. Reason: Judge Gawthrop had been a faithful lieutenant of Senator T. Larry Eyre, then the powerful GOP machine leader of Chester County.

Judge Gawthrop was a judge on the Superior Court bench for ten years, until he was defeated for re-nomination in 1932. From 1932-33 he received $3,0113 in pension money, though he had paid but $138.15 into the State Employes' Retirement Fund.

Offered the post of chief counsel to the Senate Utilities Investigating Committee in 1932, Judge Gawthrop turned it down on the plea that he had already made arrangements to represent the utilities when he left the bench. But many a person suspected that Judge Gawthrop turned down the offer because it would have meant that to resign as judge would lose him, calculating from the normal life span, some $50,000 in pension money. However, Gawthrop failed of re-nomination—the first time a Superior Court judge had been denied re-nomination after serving a 10-year term.

In 1933 Gawthrop was made a member of the State Liquor Control Board. He paid $1,605 into the pension fund. From the Liquor Control Board, to which Pinchot named him, he got $10,000 a year salary. In 1935 he received a "friendly dismissal" from the Liquor Control Board, after an investigation into high prices, favoritism, etc., none of which were definitely proved. Had he retired voluntarily, he would have lost his pension again. But he preferred to be dismissed—since it permitted him to receive a pension of $349.48 per month. In 1935 Gawthrop was quoted as saying he could not afford to stay in Harrisburg at $10,000 a year when he could make more money in private practice.

That year Gawthrop and his son, Thomas, 26,

JUDGE ROBERT S. FRAZER
Pension: $839 per month. He says he's "unemployed."

opened a law firm in his native Chester County, where he had formerly been a District Attorney and judge in the Court of Common Pleas. He has represented large utilities, and the Pennsylvania Railroad. Meantime his earnings are being cushioned by the State pension paid him.

Judge Robert von Moschzisker, former Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, had been on the bench 21 years before he resigned in 1930. As soon as he left the bench he hung out his shingle. He could afford to take a chance on clients, since he was receiving $783.18 a month in pensions. Surely he would make a splendid investment counsel—for a man who can get that return on a $1,022 investment is truly an expert.

At the present time von Moschzisker is solicitor for the Board of Education in Philadelphia. He receives a salary of $5,000 a year, but recently asked for a raise to $7,500 because his duties were so onerous.

Von Moschzisker was orphaned at an early age. He began working in a lawyer's office at 13, and was admitted to the bar in 1896. He became a Third Assistant District Attorney, then Second Assistant, then First Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia. In 1903 he became a Common Pleas Judge; in 1910 he went on the Supreme Court bench, and was upped to Chief Justice in 1921. In 1930 he was Senator David Aiken Reed's choice for the United States Supreme Court, but Hoover appointed Owen J. Roberts instead.

Before he came to the bench he represented such companies as John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Erie Railroad. Today he is with the firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll.

Few years ago it was revealed that while he was on the bench Justice von Moschzisker was one of the judges on the Morgan preferred list, let in on the ground floor to buy Allegheny Corporation stock at $20 below its market price. He bought 150 shares.

Since he has resigned from the bench, von Moschzisker has been counsel for trust companies and the Philadelphia Real Estate Board as well as for large chain stores. As such he has argued against taxing business for relief.

In 1932 he was lawyer for the Suburban Water Company which took the waters of the Perkiomen Creek from Delaware, Montgomery Counties and interfered with public water supply.

In 1931 he was removed from his post as Special Counsel to the State Banking Department; he disagreed with Dr. Gordon, head of the depart-

JUDGE ROBERT GAWTHROP
Pension: $349 per month. He now represents the Pennsylvania Railroad.

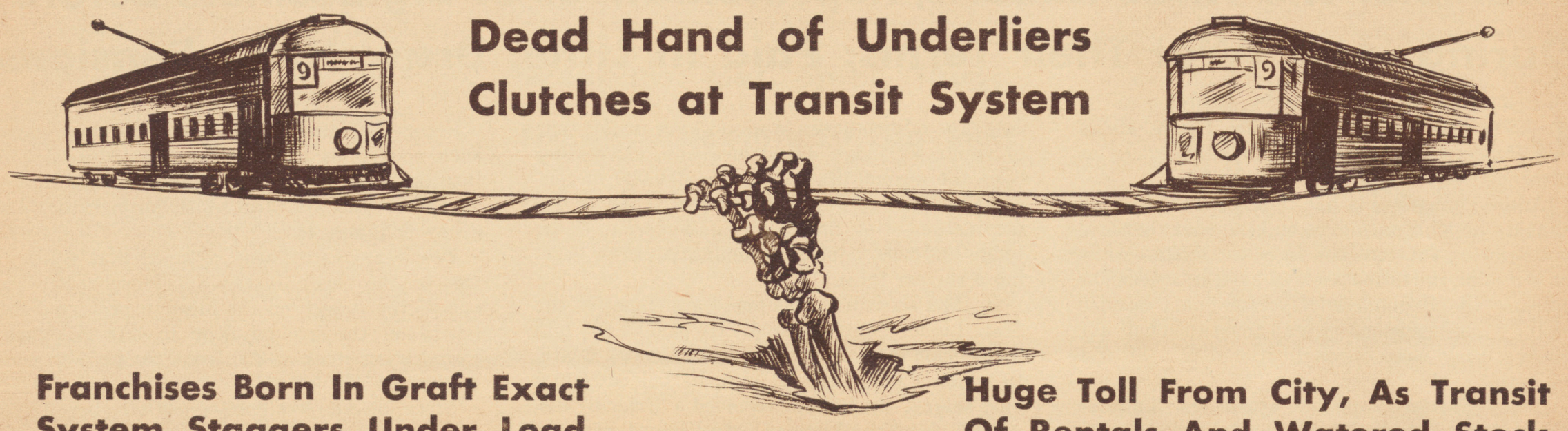
ment. In 1932 he handed in a bill for $75,000 as his fee for serving 11 months as counsel for the defunct Bankers' Trust Company; the fee was considered excessive and was reduced by $20,000.

In June, 1936, the former Judge came out against Governor Earle's graduated store tax as unconstitutional; he himself represents two large chain store organizations.

Justice Robert S. Frazer, who was first elected to the bench (as a member of Allegheny County's Common Pleas Court) in 1896, laid aside his robes last year after 39 years as a judge. On a recent birthday he said he numbered himself among the unemployed, since he was no longer actively working. He could well afford this little joke at his own expense, as he recalled the 21 years he had served as a Supreme Court justice at $20,000 a year—and the $837 per month pension he received for a total payment of $169.66 into the Retirement Fund. The real aged unemployed, for whom he had declared pensions illegal, look at the joke as not so funny.

Justice Frazer was a State Representative from 1877 to 1879. After serving those terms he became a corporation clerk in the Auditor General's office, where he became so familiar with corporation law that he had slight difficulty in gaining a lucrative practice in Pittsburgh, where the Mellons were instrumental in elevating him to the bench.

GHOSTS IN PHILADELPHIA



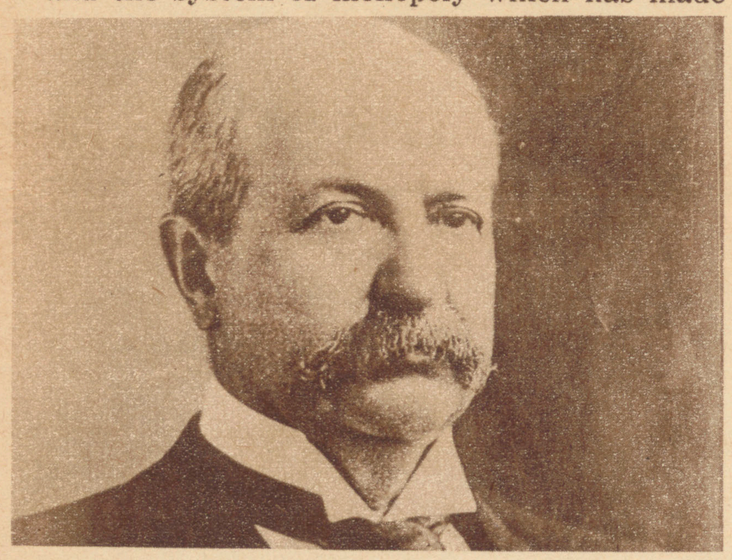
Dead Hand of Underliers Clutches at Transit System

Franchises Born In Graft Exact System Staggers Under Load

SAVE for Chicago, Philadelphia has the longest stretch of surface railway lines of any American city.

The additional fact that through piratical financial operations the railways' values have been inflated until the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company staggered under lease and interest charges equal to 54 percent of the gross receipts is interesting, but does not possess the charm of novelty. For street railways have been a fertile breeding ground of monopoly, high finance and legalized extortion. Similar conditions can be found in almost any large town with a street railway company.

For the Philadelphia street railways are typical —and the system of monopoly which has made



P. A. B. WIDENER
The transit monopoly he built.

its operations possible is also typical of street railway transit in America.

But in one respect Philadelphia outscores many another railway monopoly—in the tight clutch with which the dead hand of underlying companies squeezes the stockholders and customers of the present company, to wring from them profits that should justly go to decreased fares and increased payments to the City of Philadelphia.

For years the Philadelphia transit situation has been controlled by ghosts. The ghosts are the underliers. And the underliers are the old railways companies which hold early franchises often obtained by graft and skulduggery; to which the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company must pay huge sums as rentals; and from which Philadelphia's wealthy 400 extract a fat living.

Currently the City of Philadelphia is engaged in a difficult legal battle, attempting to buy out the underliers, put the PRT on a sound basis, and finally to acquire the system for the municipality.

Progress is difficult. For from their graves the underliers clutch with a dead hand the living body of the transit system. And from the rich compost of these corpses springs a fat harvest of unearned wealth for Philadelphia's socially prominent citizens.

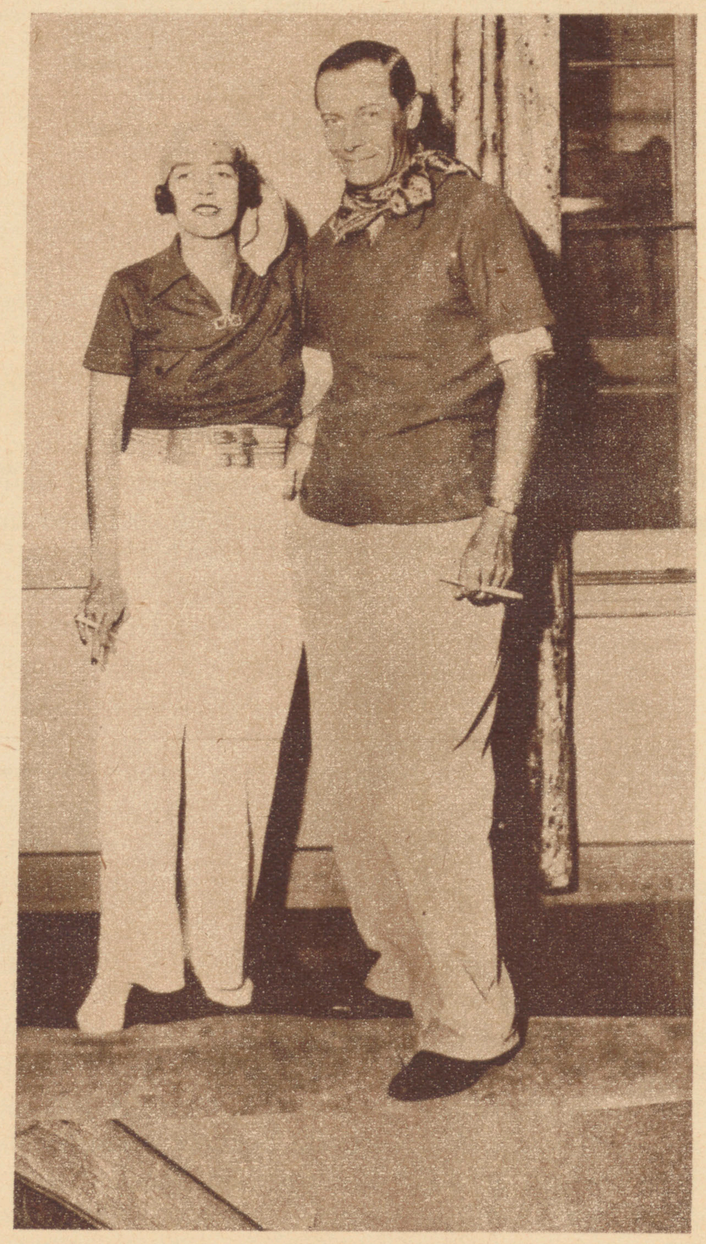
So to understand the Philadelphia situation—to understand how watered stocks and inflated values are used to rob American citizens by many utility combines everywhere—one must use history as a medium, harken to voices from the tomb, and consort with ghosts.

The Ghost Underliers. The history of Philadelphia transit begins in 1831, when the city had a population of 81,000 packed in two square miles, with another 74,000 in the suburbs.

That year one James Boxall started an hourly stagecoach service from Schuylkill and Chestnut Streets every morning, from 8:30 a.m. hourly until 4:30 p.m. Return trips left the Coffee House hourly from 9 until 5. The proprietor drove the coach; the fare was 10c, or 12 tickets for $1. Two years later an omnibus line was started, from the Navy Yard to Kensington, running at right angles to Boxall's line. The success of these lines was enormous. Soon dozens of lines clattered over Philadelphia's cobblestones.

Omnibus days were short-lived. By 1858 most had been gobbled up by horse-cars on rails. But a familiar note had already been struck. The street railway companies had to purchase the equipment of the omnibus companies before taking control. And the underliers had their birth.

In 1857 the Philadelphia & Delaware River Railway Company, then operating a steam railroad, got from Pennsylvania Legislature a supplement to its charter to permit the construction of a horse-car street railway on Fifth & Sixth Streets. Though the charter was denounced as "conceived in wickedness and brought forth in infamy," it was granted. The first street railway in Philadelphia was opened on January 20,



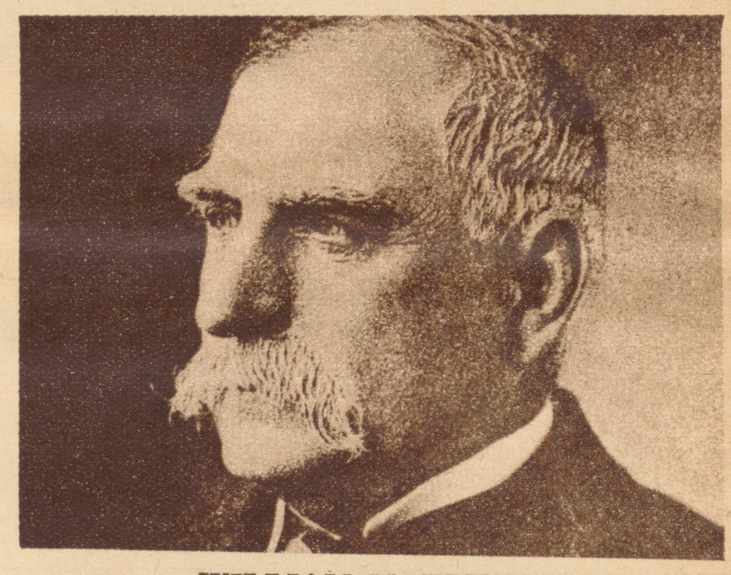
FIFI WIDENER & HUSBAND
Pays $74,000 a year to wealthy socialite descendants.

Huge Toll From City, As Transit Of Rentals And Watered Stock

1838. It was a financial success in its first year.

Others began to itch for this rich income. Another charter was granted for a Chestnut & Walnut Street Railway, one granting indefinite powers, but requiring a license fee of $50 for each car, plus keeping streets in good repair. When this line was given over to the Citizens' Passenger Railway Company, there was an outcry that the councilmen who granted the charter had been given stock as a bribe. There is every reason to believe the accusation true.

Charters were granted rapidly. Two railways were chartered in 1857; ten in 1858; six in 1859. Between 1857 and 1874, 39 separate companies got charters. The first principle was competition. Then a new monopolistic force appeared—the



WILLIAM M. ELKINS
And the transit monopoly he built.

Board of Presidents of the City Passenger Railway Companies, which set fares for all and arranged transfers. The Board held sway until 1895, when the Union Traction Company was formed.

The Union Traction Company took over many underlying lines; later, in 1902, the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, organized by the geniuses of Union Traction, was organized. Soon most of Philadelphia's transit was in its hands. It had to pay exorbitant amounts to the holders of underlying securities.

Thus in Philadelphia there exists a typical traction mess. Original franchises were obtained by graft and bribery; stocks were watered over and over again; incredible fictitious valuations were smugly set on obsolescent properties; all this was piled into one company, with another dose of water added. And the citizens were left holding the bag.

A typical example was the Philadelphia Traction Company, founded in 1883 by P. A. B. Widener, the former butcher boy, and W. L. Elkins, the former grocery clerk. They aimed to get control of all the other traction companies. By 1884 they had six companies bought up, and an interest in a seventh. By 1885 it was operating 116 miles out of the total of 320 miles of track, and carrying 42,000,000 passengers of the 117,000,000 total. Then Elkins and Widener went into a political partnership with Jeremiah J. Sullivan, Lowber West, and Matthew S. Quay. One Elkins-Widener deal shows what happened to all of Philadelphia's street railways.

The Green & Coates Street Railway started as a horse-car system with a franchise for two streets. It began with 10,000 shares of stock

worth $150,000. Then Green & Coates was taken over by the People's Passenger Railway, one of the "second generation" companies. People's agreed to pay an annual rental for 999 years of $60,000 a year, equivalent to an annual rental of 41 percent of the original investment. People's Passenger stockholders paid in $11.30 per share, then sold the company to the Elkins-Widener People's Traction Company at $76 a share. People's Traction paid in $30 a share, then sold to Union Traction for $76 a share. Union Traction became the ultimate owner and operator of the Green & Coates Railway. Car riders had to pay not only for the watered stock of the intervening companies, but also the annual rental of $60,000 to the original underlier.

Union Traction Company operated until July 1, 1902. Then all Union properties were leased by the P.R.T. The pyramiding of rentals, of guaranteed dividends, resulted in an accumulation of fixed charges unparalleled for an operating company. In the first year the fixed charges were 44 percent of the gross receipts—that is, of $15,272,806 paid by passengers, $6,805,091 went to pay the fixed charges created by the underliers.

The bulk of the P.R.T. lines are owned by underlying companies, the majority of which date back to horse-car days. These underliers were leased or merged upwards into the Union Traction Company, then into P.R.T. From the beginning, 150 separate corporations have entered into the corporate structure of P.R.T. and the underliers. Thirty-four have been dissolved; 33 lost their identity through mergers, and 76 exist today.

Owners. Who owns the underliers, extracting annual rentals today of $7,112,384 from the P.R.T.—really, from the Philadelphia citizens who ride the P.R.T.?

Philadelphia "400" own one-half of the 1,300,000 shares in the stock of P.R.T. underliers. $4,000,000 a year is still being paid to the heirs of the persons who held the horse-car franchises. The "400" owns 650,000 shares of the underlier stock at an average annual income of $10,000 each. The rest is divided among some 10,000 little fellows, who get an average annual income of $300. The Elkinses are counted as 25 investors; the Wideners as 12, because the respective estates get that many separate checks.

1). The Elkins family trust funds yield about $250,000 a year from underliers. About $142,000 go to Felton Elkins and Marie Louise Elkins Iaccaci, grandchildren of William M. Elkins, and

MAYOR S. DAVIS WILSON
He would buy out the underliers, ending their ghost grasp.

children of William M. Elkins, Jr. About $24,000 a year goes to Mrs. Allethaire Ludlow Cummer Elkins Rotan, widow of George M. Elkins and Samuel Rotan, of Folly Farms, Chestnut Hill. The rest goes to Elkins heirs scattered from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

2). Estate of P. A. B. Widener and George D. Widener. To this goes some $96,000 a year. A little goes to the Widener Home for Crippled Children. Fifi Widener, granddaughter of P. A. B. Widener and wife of Aksel Wichfield, gets about $74,000 a year.

3). Charles E. Ellis Estate. It gets $136,000 a year, which goes to Ellis College at Newton Square, Penna.

4). Catharine M. Colfelt Taylor Winship, co-trustee, estate of Rebecca Colfelt, about $93,000 a year.

5). Clarence B. Moore, some $42,000 a year.

6). Thomas McKean and Mrs. Morton Downs of Bryn Mawr, trustees under the will of Thomas McKean, about $31,000 a year.

7). Charles T. Quinn, about $29,000 a year.

8). A. Balfour Brehman, now president of Union Traction Company; Armor W. Brehman and Mary D. Brehman, about $28,000 a year.

9). George Banks Ellis of Langhorne; his brother, Frank H. Ellis, 3rd; and his sister, Mrs. Royal Little of Boston, about $28,000 a year.

10). Estates of Mary Geiger Wilkinson and Ellen G. Wilkinson, about $26,000.

11). Theodore F. Jenkins, former judge and longtime solicitor for the Board of Education, some $26,000.

12). Estate of Israel W. ("Iz") Durham, former Philadelphia GOP boss, some $26,000.

13). Mrs. James Balfour of Merion, and her son James, who lives in Alabama, some $23,000.

P.R.T.'S BOARD
Tangled in amazing legal and financial complications

★

Seated from right to left:

George Mackinnon
Walter LeMar Talbot
Herbert J. Tily
John A. MacCarthy
Mayor Wilson
Ralph T. Senter
Jacob J. Seeds
Dr. A. A. Mitten

14). Edward C. Dale of Hartdale, Bryn Mawr, some $23,000.

15). Mitten Bank Securities Corporation, some $21,000.

16). Henry R. Hallowell of Merion, for himself as trustee with Mrs. Bettina Hallowell for the estate of J. Wallace Hallowell, some $20,000.

Altogether, there are some 64 various estate and persons which can be listed as drawing some $7,000 a year and more from the underliers. Spenser Penrose, Colorado millionaire brother of the late Senator Boies Penrose, as trustee for Francis Penrose, draws some $14,000 a year. Trust funds established by Jeremiah J. Sullivan, one of the allies of Elkins and Widener, are worth about $15,000.

Mitten Management has been regarded alternately as the blessing and the bane of P. R. T. Thomas Eugene Mitten was called in by E. T. Stotesbury in 1911 to run the P. R. T., after the stockholders had asked Stotesbury to save the company from bankruptcy. Mitten upped wages, instituted a "Co-operative Plan" (company union) for the workers, who had been involved in two bloody strikes. Mitten ran P. R. T. from 1911 until his death in 1929, when his son, dapper Dr. A. A. Mitten, who waxes his spiked mustache, is fond of setters and proud of his private bar, took over. Meantime the scandals of Mitten Management had piled up, as had deficits. In 1931 P. R. T. was forced into trusteeship.

It was forced into trusteeship in 1931 by dynamic Mayor S. (for Samuel) Davis Wilson, who was then Deputy Comptroller. The city's interest in P. R. T. began with the granting of the first franchises. Underliers have been able to extract from the operating companies large payments for perpetual franchise rights—which the city granted them originally. In 1896, for instance, the company's obligations to the city were threefold: (1) To pave the streets they used; this they evaded. (2) A tax on dividends over 6 percent; this they also evaded. (3) Car license fees of $50; this was cheap and easy to enforce. At that time the financiers of Union Traction valued the street railway franchises at $75,000,000. On this the city got a total return of $639,000—or nine-tenths of one percent of the estimated value of the franchises.

In 1927 the Public Service Commission appointed C. C. McChord, former member of the U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission, to investigate the underliers and report on them. He recommended that the underliers be condemned at a cost of $136,000,000. Legislature then passed the Daix Act, authorizing condemnation of the underliers, the value to be determined by hearings of the Public Service Commission. The Commission recommended that the city condemn the underlies at $139,000,000 and take over their franchises. In the properties were 55 street railway and traction companies which were only paper companies that never laid any tracks, nor ever owned facilities or exercised public franchises.

Said the Commission report of the paper companies:

"It is desirable that the city acquire these sleeping or inchoate rights so that they may not remain outstanding in other hands and since they are all inter-company owned, they can be acquired without cost, other than the price to be paid for the active companies."

The public wholly or partly holds shares of the remaining 45 companies, including 16 companies with stocks inter-company owned, and 29 companies whose stocks are held by the public. The 45 companies exercised franchises and constructed and acquired facilities which comprise practically the entire street railway system of Philadelphia. Each one has at various times leased its facilities, properties and franchises to some other company; finally all wound up in the P. R. T. system—with leases for some 900 years.

In the Courts. Meantime the entire system has been thrown into the courts for reorganization. In 1931, when then Deputy Controller Wilson forced P. R. T. into trusteeship, Judge Harry S. McDevitt appointed three trustees for five years. They were given power to make reforms and to oust the Mitten Management. Their five years were up this Spring. They wanted to continue in power. Dr. A. A. Mitten, whose Mitten Bank Securities Corporation owns 372 shares of the 580 shares of P. R. T. stock, was against it. Mayor Wilson wanted the P. R. T. employes, who own a controlling interest in Mitten Bank Securities, to vote on the subject. (P. R. T. employes, under their Co-operative Plan, were paid some $18,000,000 for stock, but got a very slight return compared to the underliers.) The U. S. Circuit Court turned thumbs down on the vote. So currently Federal Judge George A. Welsh has the controlling voice, since the reorganization is in his court.

Meantime there have been numerous plans advanced. The Albert M. Greenfield plan contemplates that the city buy the transit system for $84,000,000 in city bonds, of which $49,000,000 would go to wipe out the underliers. P. R. T.

DR. A. A. MITTEN
He struggles to retain control with Mitten Management.

would be hired to operate the transit system, paying dividends on its stock. Meantime out of earnings from the system, the city would buy up the stock over 50 years.

On May 8, 1936, the city entered into a tentative agreement to buy the underliers for $84,000,000. Meantime, six days later Judge Welsh named six trustees for P. R. T., chairmanned by Mayor Wilson, blocking the Mitten Bank Securities Corporation from exercising control.

Meantime various court fights are going on or pending. In one, Union Traction Company is seeking to recover $3,000,000 from P. R. T., which it claims is in arrears on its rentals. The under-

(Continued from page 3)

A NEW DEAL *for farmers*

"I CAN'T understand," said Miss Smithers, teacher in a rural school, "what has happened to the Smith children all of a sudden. They used to be careless about their dress. They used to mope in a corner of the school yard, and never play with the others. Look at them now." And she points to three children playing one of the noisiest games of tag you ever heard, along with the others. They had changed because their family was on its own again.

Bald facts make dry reading. But behind a fact there may be the sum of many human lives, of human interest.

The movies used to have a technique called the flash-back. Elsie Bigeyes, about to say yes to rich young Reginald Wolfe, closes her eyes for a moment's thought — or what registers for thought on Elsie's pretty face. And suddenly you see on the screen Elsie walking down a country lane arm in arm with the tow-headed kid she used to fight with. You know and we know right then that Elsie will repulse young whippersnapper Reggie.

So we'll use the same technique, and cut back to the dry facts behind the Smith children who now play with the others in the school yard. You'll find the facts on a sheet of paper marked "News Release."

"J. Hansell Franch," it says, "Secretary of Agriculture and Chairman of The Pennsylvania Farm-Debt Adjustment Advisory Committee, states that since the beginning of last October of the Farm-Debt Adjustment program, a total of 1,385 cases of financially distressed farmers have been reported. Of this number 654 cases have been definitely closed, 119 of these were refinanced through the Federal Land Bank or Land Bank Commissioner, Production Credit Association or private lending agencies; 463 have required Rural Rehabilitation loans either to refinance or assist in refinancing. Of the total number, only 90 cases have been dropped. There are still 641 cases to be adjusted.

"The total indebtedness involved in the 654 closed cases, prior to the adjustment was $2,037,068. Through refinancing this indebtedness was reduced to $1,773,810 with a corresponding reduction of interest payments."

Those are facts.

Behind them you will find thousands of people who were bogged down beneath a load of debt now with their heads above water again. You will find storekeepers with back bills being paid up again—and as a result able to obtain and extend lines of credit. You will find banks getting returns on loans which they had thought were lost. You will find fertilizer companies getting business which they had counted as definitely dead.

All that has been the work of the Farm-Debt Adjustment unit of the Rural Resettlement Adminitration, in cooperation with sane, hard-headed bankers, attorneys, businessmen—and farmers.

FARM-DEBT ADJUSTMENT IS PRACTICAL, VOLUNTARY MEANS OF KEEPING FARM CUSTOMERS PAYING CUSTOMERS

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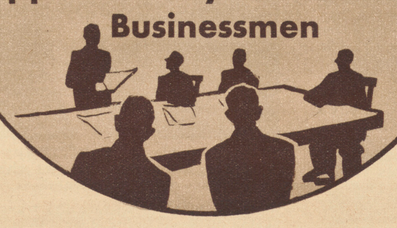
Applauded By Farmers and Businessmen



The story of the Farm-Debt Adjustment unit is the story of another New Deal program that has saved thousands of persons from economic extinction, and saved thousands of businessmen from total loss.

What is the Farm-Debt Adjustment Unit? John F. Joesting, a big, muscular dairy farmer who is assistant chief of the 11-State district from Virginia up through New England, with his headquarters in the State Theater Building in Harrisburg, explains:

"We have absolutely no money to lend. We are a cooperating agency. The beauty of this thing is that the entire program is based on voluntary agreements between distressed farmers and their creditors. All we do is to act as a go-between for farmers and creditors. We determine what a farmer's debts are; what his farm can produce in the way of income; what his record is. Then we'll go to the creditors, together with our county committee members, and we all sit down together to work out an agreement."

A typical case would be that of Frank James (not his real name) in a county in the Eastern part of the State.

Though he is a bigger farmer than most, with more assets and liabilities than most, his case is just as typical as that of farmers who are staggering under a debt of, say, $5,000. His family is a typical farm family, typically American. His 1,900 acres, made up of three farms, borders on a State road. His children have all finished high school, or are attending.

He is 54, and his wife is 48. They have six sons, huskies ranging in age from 24 to 11, and three daughters aged 20, 13, and nine. There is also an uncle aged 71 who lives with them. So in all there are twelve people directly involved in the financial situation that confronted the James family.

Of course many others were involved too—the other farmers in the neighborhood who were in the county association under the Federal Land Bank plan, which held a mortgage on one of the farms; the local bank, which held another mortgage, and an estate which held another mortgage; the fertilizer company, to which he owed back bills; the local stores; and many other businesses of which Frank James had in past years been a valuable customer, but to which he was now in arrears on his principal and interest payments.

Altogether, the total of his indebtedness was $50,880.

There was a reason for this aside from slack farm management—for Frank James was a good farmer, a fairly good businessman.

But several years ago one local industry on which neighborhood farmers counted for an annual income went to pot. And the potato crop, which was the big crop in that neighborhood, had failed for three straight years because of drought, then brought in very little another year because of low prices. Many other farmers in Frank James' locality had just thrown up their hands and given up. But he had clung on grimly, doing his best to pay off his debts and keep his farm.

Now a farmer is beset by just the same problems as a corporation—except that the farmer's problems are aggravated. For instance, if he drives himself too hard to pay off his debts, he must rob his farm to pay his creditors. His buildings run down; his land is drained. In other words, when he farms too intensively in an effort to pay off his debts, both he and his creditors are steadily having their equities decreased. If he finally gets his debts cleared, he emerges with a farm far less valuable than the one on which he was paying debts. If he is foreclosed, the mortgagor has a farm far less valuable than the one on which he granted a mortgage.

If the farm does go out of the farmer's hands, several other things begin working in the downward cycle. The farmer goes on relief—or he gets another job, thus depriving a non-farmer of that job. Meantime his farm will probably stand idle for some years—and few things depreciate faster than an idle farm. What results is a loss to the farmer; a loss to the community; a loss to his creditors.

And so when, one month this Spring, Frank James advised the Farm-Debt Adjustment unit that the Federal Land Bank would foreclose him within the week, the Adjustment unit got busy immediately. (Foreclosure sounds hard-boiled, but Land Banks must do it to protect other farmers who have loans there. In this case the Land Bank had carried Frank James for two and a half years.)

They found that Frank James had a good character. Until a combination of depression and poor crops struck he had been prompt in his payments, a good customer for businesses. They found that he had 95 acres in potatoes, which would bring him greatly increased income in 1936. He had 105 acres in oats seeded to alsac and sweet clover. He had 25 acres in clover hay, 20 acres of buckwheat, five of cabbage, and an orchard and garden. He had fair livestock, well-kept farm buildings. And besides that, while other farmers had been slashing down their timber, Frank had held onto his woodland, which with scientific cutting and management could bring in some $6,000 a year.

The Farm-Debt unit immediately talked the situation over with local attorneys and bankers, who vouched for Frank's good standing. A meeting of the local Farm Loan Association was called, which passed a resolution asking the Federal Land Bank of District Two (Baltimore) to stop foreclosure under the proviso that the Rural Rehabilitation Bureau, another agency of Rural Resettlement Administration, would lend Frank money to pay his back taxes, and that a composition of his debts be effected and further recommended that the FLB then reamortize the mortgage.

Rural Rehabilitation made a study of Frank's farm, and advanced a farm management plan. It found that his gross income for 1936 should be about $20,000—of which $10,000 is normal operating cost. It agreed to lend Frank James $4,900.

A meeting of creditors was held, at which Farm-Debt men sat in with Frank and 35 of his creditors. The "voluntary" part of the Farm-Debt program worked beautifully. There was no bickering, no recrimination—just a group of men sitting down to work out a problem of interest to them all.

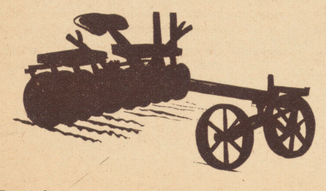
What came out of that meeting was this: The Land Bank, to which Frank was $1,037 delinquent in interest on a $8,900 mortgage, agreed to rewrite the mortgage reamortizing the loan to the original amount of the mortgage. Other mortgages were reduced, and interest scaled down from 6 percent to 5 percent. The total outstanding obligations were reduced by 41 percent.

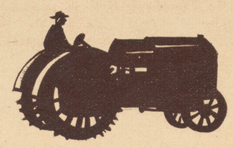
Now this was not charity on the part of Frank's creditors, but good business. Had he been foreclosed, his judgment notes and other debts would have gone by the board—not a penny realized on them. This way the judgment and unsecured creditors, by scaling down their obligations along with the mortgagors, would collect on debts that would otherwise have been hopeless. Besides, they kept a man afloat who had always been a good customer.

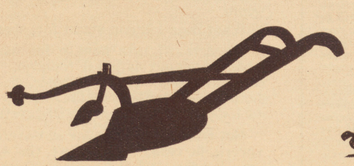
For instance, Frank James had cancelled checks to the fertilizer company for seven years back which showed that during that time he had bought and paid for $20,000 worth of fertilizer. Company officials realized, even before the Debt Adjustment men pointed it out to them, that it would be foolish to let Frank go on the rocks for a debt of a few hundred dollars when, by cutting down the debt that he owed them to about one-fifth of its original amount—and by working with the other creditors so that they too would cut down the amount of debt—they would emerge again with a live customer, a man who was making his farm earn again, who would buy from them again, and who would be able to pay for what he bought.

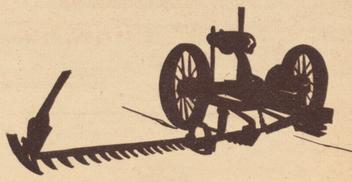
It was the same way all along the line. If the holders of the first mortgages had foreclosed, they would have had idle farm land on their hands which would quickly have depreciated. The holders of the second mortgage would have had hardly any satisfaction. The county, to which Frank James owed taxes, would have lost.

(Continued on page 14)









We the People

Trade Mark Registered

A Magazine for Pennsylvanians

REED McROBERTS . . . Editor

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LANDON'S SPEECH: HOOVER ALL OVER AGAIN

RADIO listeners who heard Governor Alfred Mossman Landon deliver his acceptance speech were impressed by how closely his voice resembled the voice of Herbert Hoover.

But the resemblance did not stop at Landon's voice. The voice was almost the voice of Hoover. The thoughts were the thoughts of Hooverism; the soul of the speech was the soul of the American Liberty League, the National Manufacturers' Association, and all those Tory economic royalists who have taken the Republican Party for their own.

Herbert Hoover's whole 1932 campaign was founded on the theory that the depression was brought about "by forces over which we had no control." Landon carefully repeated almost those exact words in his speech. The unemployed, said he, found themselves out of jobs because of "economic forces over which they had had no control." The soul of Hoover again!

The New Deal believes that there can be a control exerted over those economic forces which bring depression.

Under Hoover we lost our shirts in a wild stock market boom—"cat & dog" securities were unloaded on the public by the million. Worthless bonds of foreign countries were hawked by the most prominent financial personages of the nation—who had often exerted pressure on our Department of State to see that foreign loans were made through them.

The Securities & Exchange Act was the New Deal's answer to the Tory argument that there could be no control over that particular economic force which helped bring depression. The Tories say there can be no control because they want no control of their right to take chances with the public's money.

Many of those who had not lost their shirts on "gilt-edged" securities sold them by the great financial giants of the country lost their savings in the banks that began folding up at a terrific rate under the Hoover regime.

The New Deal's answer to that was the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. Not a single depositor has lost a nickel in a bank which has closed since that act went into effect.

Would Landon repeal these acts and go back to the do-nothing policy of his Republican predecessors?

Landon again almost lifts Hoover's thoughts "prosperity is just around the corner." He phrases it a little differently. "The country is ripe for recovery," says he.

But he takes care to qualify his words so that people will not assume that the greatest amount of auto sales since 1929; the greatest peak in electrical power sales; the greatest earnings experienced by business in years; the highest dividends paid in years; the resurgence of the steel industry, do not indicate a step toward recovery.

"It must be remembered that the welfare of our people," says Landon, "is not recorded on the financial pages of our newspapers. It cannot be measured in stock market prices."

We readily agree with Governor Landon on that point. We agree with him that the booming business which is currently pouring wealth into the pockets of the economic royalists again does not constitute full recovery, but merely a step on the way.

Then what does constitute complete recovery?

It is two-fold: greater earnings for business—which business is now getting; and increased employment, with increased pay checks for labor.

Pay checks increased and hours of work were shortened under NRA. But as soon as NRA was killed by the pressure of the economic royalists, what happened? Hours immediately increased, and real wages decreased. Meantime, labor-saving machinery installed during depression required fewer men to turn out the same output of goods as were manufactured during the most uproarious boom days.

What does Landon propose to do about this second phase of recovery?

The answer is, nothing.

He plans to do nothing because the economic royalists who gave him the nomination, and who will try to buy him the election through one of the greatest Republican slush funds ever assembled, are not willing to share their new prosperity with the common man.

What does Landon propose to do about a constitutional amendment to wipe out the No Man's Land of hours and wages created by the recent decision of the Supreme Court?

Apparently he did not consider it of sufficient consequence to give it any mention in his speech.

What is Landon's stand on the right of Labor to organize for collective bargaining?

The answer there is plain too. The words of his speech devoted to labor were almost the words of the American Iron & Steel Institute advertisement published against the union drive to organize the steel industry—an advertisement in which Landon's uncle, William Mossman of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, apparently had a hand.

"The right of labor to organize," says Landon, "means to me the right of employes to join any type of union they prefer, whether it covers their plant (company union), their craft or their industry. . . . Under all circumstances, so states the Republican platform, employes are to be free from any interference from any source, which means, as I read it, entire freedom from coercion or intimidation by the employer, and fellow employe or any other person."

How neatly he barbed that "or any other person" to point straight at John L. Lewis, whose Committee for Industrial Organization is responsible for the effort to unionize steel. How the American Iron & Steel Institute royalists must have whooped with glee at that one.

Labor is rarely fooled by the intentions of a candidate when he speaks on his labor stand. They know what words mean when applied to labor's rights. How does labor interpret Landon's stand?

Says John L. Lewis, president of United Mine Workers: "It would preclude organization except where the workers spontaneously acted, and as every laboring man knows that policy, if applied, would freeze the movement to organize American labor. The workers of America will not be beguiled by the equivocal plank in the Republican platform, or the unctious words of Mr. Landon."

Says Sidney Hillman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers: "It is particularly fitting that Mr. Landon, the candidate of the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce, acting in the political field under the alias of the Republican party, should in that part of his acceptance speech go out of his way to mention first the company-union type of organization in the paragraph where he spoke of the right of labor to organize. . . . It is significant that Landon said nothing about higher wages, maximum hours or the furthering of collective bargaining. As regards the struggle of labor to better its condition, Landon says that 'the government must maintain itself in the position of umpire.'

"All I can say to this is that it will be a sorry day for the workers of this country should a Republican administration, as the political agents of the Liberty League, the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce, ever act as umpire between the organized workers of this country and the employers."

Says Major George L. Berry, of the Printing Pressmen's Union: "Words, words — — weasel words. He talks the industrial language of the Nineties."

What is Landon's solution for employing more people to "earn their bread in the sweat of their brow?"

He uses another Hoover phrase. We must have a "return of confidence." Since Landon made it clear that to his mind bigger earnings—made under the New Deal—do not restore the confidence of big business, thus loosing what he thinks is a dammed up wave of prosperity, what will restore their confidence? Landon knows, and his economic royalist stable-masters know, that the only thing they want to be confident of is that the economic royalists can run the country again, to their own selfish ends—as they were doing when under twelve years of Republicanism, they ran it into the ditch of depression.

Landon rants about big expenditures and high taxes. He will end that when he gets into office, says he.

Yet he plans to continue relief for the unemployed. He knows that Hoover was beaten because he refused to see any need for a national system of relief. So Landon says he will continue for relief.

Yet Landon should certainly know, should certainly have studied the Roosevelt administration enough to know, as almost everyone else knows, that the normal Governmental expenditures under Roosevelt have been no higher than they were before. The cause of increased expenditures by the Roosevelt administration has been—relief.

Just how does Governor Landon propose to cut down expenditures and maintain relief? He does not say. But perhaps he will do it by maintaining nationally, as he has in Kansas, that $1.08 a week is enough for a relief family of three to live on.

What is Landon's farm program?

It can be dismissed by saying that the only points on which he was specific was lifted boldly from the program President Roosevelt initiated—the first program ever actually doing anything for the farmer after years of Republican promises to do something—promises equaled only by the lack of Republican performance to carry them out.

In fact, Governor Landon's entire acceptance speech was one of equivocation and hedging on important issues.

He promises to bring back prosperity—not the prosperity which has already come to corporations and stockholders, but general prosperity to include the working man's pay envelope. Yet he attacks the New Deal efforts to increase wages and decrease hours, says nothing to indicate how he will attempt to bring general prosperity about.

He yearns for old-fashioned "initiative," which "is not a commodity to be delivered in pound packages through a government bureau." He probably means that we should have free "initiative" again to buy worthless stocks without the protection of the Securities & Exchange Commission, and to put our money into busting banks without the protection of deposit insurance.

He promises to reduce governmental expenditures—yet he promises to continue relief, which is the cause of high expenditures.

He talks about the rights of labor—yet his labor platform sounds like a direct steal from the American Iron & Steel Institute's pronouncement.

He criticizes the New Deal's efforts in behalf of the farmer—yet the specific points on his farm paragraphs are lifted from Roosevelt's farm program.

What does Landon stand for, specifically?

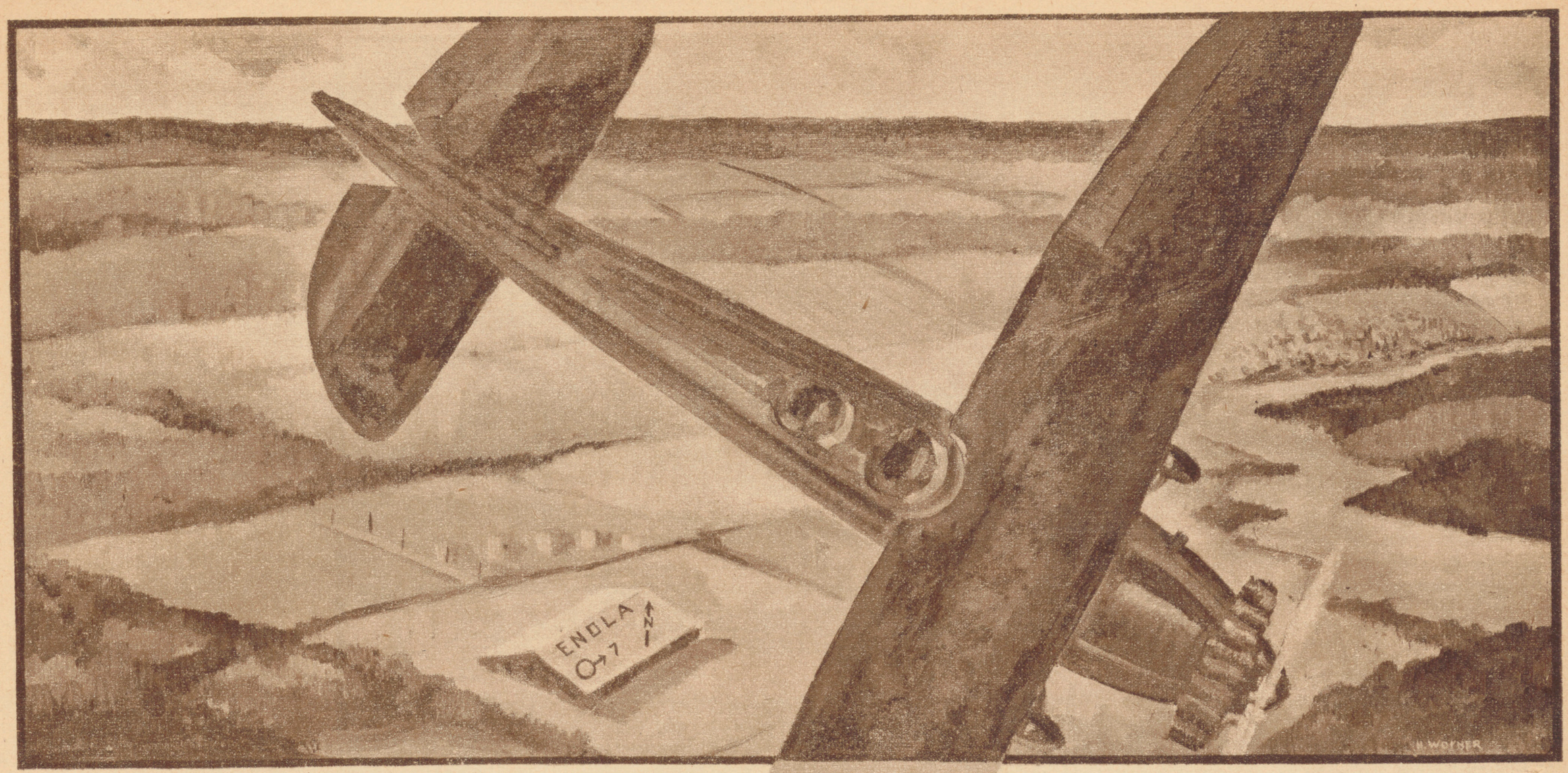
He says: "I turn now to the basic principles upon which our nation is founded. America has always stood, and now stands, first of all for human rights, for 'the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness' of the great Declaration."

But from the whole tone of Governor Landon's speech, he really meant, "life, the American Liberty League, and the pursuit of what happiness the economic royalists will permit you."

TO OUR READERS

We the People will be glad to print letters of interest from its readers. You are bound to have first-hand experience that others do not have, but will be glad to share. Write about your jobs, about your hobbies. Write about conditions as you know them, basing your letters on facts, not on unsupported opinions. People are interesting to other people. Write about yourselves.

We the People is also open to receive manuscripts from its readers—articles on little-known historical data, on odd, out-of-the-way business, on interesting facts of Pennsylvania life. It will pay for manuscripts it uses. We the People assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.



GUIDE POSTS TO THE AIR'S BACK ROADS

Three Pittsburgh Girl Fliers "Sell" WPA Air Marking Program To United States; By Fall, Pennsylvania Will Have One Air Marker For Every Twenty Miles

THE Air Marking Program is one of the most interesting of the WPA projects—because it is bringing the "country roads" of the air up-to-date.

Say you are a pilot taking your plane over unfamiliar territory. You are not on one of the "main highways" of the air—the radio beacon lanes. You may just want to know your whereabouts, or you may need to make a landing shortly. Scanning the earth below, you spot a gleaming yellow sign. In letters 16 feet high it proclaims: "Enola." A big arrow and the number 7 tell you it is seven miles to the nearest landing field. A directional arrow gives you true North.

You nose your ship around, dropping a word of thanks for one of the projects of the Aeronautics Division of the Works Progress Administration.

Already in two counties of Pennsylvania, Dauphin and Lancaster, there is one of these air markers every 20 miles. Before Fall is over they will spot the entire Pennsylvania landscape, so that a flyer is never more than 10 miles from a marker. It is a boon to flyers in an aeronautic age which, so far as air marking goes, is akin to the early days of auto touring when, once you got on the back roads, you sat beside Dad with the road map in your hand and your eye peeled for infrequent guide posts.

The Air Marking Program is sponsored by the State Aeronautics Bureau, which is putting up no money now, but which has agreed to maintain the signs by repainting them every four years. Back of the program is the United States Bureau of Air Commerce. An interesting feature of the program are its pretty, capable air saleswomen—Helen Richey, Helen McCloskey, and Louise Thaden. These girls are paid by WPA, but work for and from the Bureau of Air Commerce.

Their job is to fly about the country selling State WPA directors and State officials on air marking. The history of air marking began several years ago, when pilots frequently got lost. Big towns or industrial plants began marking large roofs with town names. Newspapers took up the drive, and many towns were marked. The present system of name, distance arrow and directional arrow is an improvement over the old name sign.

But many a State where officials are not air-minded has to be convinced of the utility of the program. The problem is analagous to that of the old highway days, when municipalities would improve and mark their own roads, but did not yet feel themselves a part of a national road system. The air saleswomen are enlarging this feeling of localism. Each one has the job of selling one-third of the country.

These air salesgirls have interesting aeronautic histories. All of them are good to look at. All of them are record breakers—break records so often that it is hard to keep up with them.

Louise Thaden, aged 30, was born in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas. She learned to fly at San Francisco in 1928, and won the Transcontinental Air Derby from Los Angeles to Cleveland in 1929. She now has logged more than 1,000 hours in the air. She has held at various times the Women's Endurance Solo Flight record; the Women's Altitude record of 26,000 feet; and the Women's Endurance record of 196 hours with another girl, the late Frances Marsalis.

In 1925 Mrs. Thaden married a Pittsburgh aeronaut, Herbert Thaden. Mr. Thaden, a prominent aeronautical engineer and designer, built one of the country's first all-metal planes. He now works at the Fairchild Aircraft plant in Maryland. The Thadens have a boy aged six, and a girl aged three. Mrs. Thaden takes her son on many of her trips, and already he can fly a plane.

Helen Richey is the good-looking girl who a year ago was on the front pages as the only girl flyer employed to pilot the big modern commercial planes, when she worked for several months for Central Airlines of Pittsburgh. Aged 27, she is a daughter of Dr. James B. Richey, who resigned recently after 20 years as superintendent of McKeesport schools. Miss Richey started to college at Carnegie Tech, but gave up her scientific course for actual flying. She began flying in 1929 at Bettis Field, Pittsburgh, where her instructor was Robt. Hart, who now operates Johnstown Airport. She quickly came to the front, and in 1933, as co-pilot with Frances Marsalis, broke the Women's Endurance record in Florida, with 9 days, 21 hours and 42 minutes, which is still unbroken. This year she broke an altitude record in a light airplane. Miss Richey has the Eastern one-third of the United States under the Air Marking program.

Helen McCloskey, daughter of the J. E. McCloskeys of Pittsburgh, first became interested in flying through reading the poetry of a young English pilot, Jeffrey Day, who was killed in the War. She was then a Sophomore at Wellesley College, where, though the girls were forbidden it, she used to steal over to Boston Airport to take flights. While working on her Ph.D. at Oxford, England, she fell ill and returned to America. She then attended Columbia; but her real intention was flying. She used to get up at 6 a. m. to go over to Floyd Bennett Field for a flying lesson; from there over to New York University to study aeronautic mechanics; then over to Columbia University for her other studies.

Her latest achievement was setting a new Women's World Distance record for light planes: from Chicago to Endless Caverns, Va., a distance of 515 miles, in 4 hours, 5 minutes.

Says Miss McCloskey: "No pilot I have talked to has ever flown 100 miles without feeling the desirability of air markers. One probably saved my life once. Lost over North Carolina and in pretty bad territory for landing, I saw a water tower air-marked Apex, N. C. I took my direction and got to a port."

Miss McCloskey is in charge of selling air-marking to the Central one-third of the United States.

(Continued on Page 14)

CHATEAU SATORY AT VERSAILLES, WHERE MICHAUX WAS BORN

FRANCOIS AND ANDRE MICHAUX, FORESTERS

In Michaux State Forest, Pennsylvania Honors Frenchmen Who Established Plantations, Wrote of Travels Here

PENNSYLVANIA, in so far as records show, is the only place where Francois Andre Michaux, son, and Andre Michaux, father, are honored for the great contribution they made to the knowledge of American trees and flowers.

In Michaux State Forest on the Lincoln Highway, the pines are the instruments of the wind, singing of the two men who long past dared deep forests that America and the world might realize the resources that nature had so bountifully provided.

The name is little known. Indeed, neither father or son has ever been the subject of the modern biographer intent on presenting rich lives of the past.

The father Andre Michaux and his son Francois Andre Michaux were both born within the royal domain of Versailles, the playground of the French king.

In the meager records, one authority refers to the father as a farmer. Other records state that the family of Michaux had long been the hereditary foresters of the park at Versailles.

Agreement upon Satory as the family residence lends credence to the belief that the Michaux were attached to the royal menage. Satory is the oldest part of Versailles. Louis XIII started to plan a chateau at Versailles in 1627. Thereafter it figured importantly in the social and political history of France.

Certainly, the marvelous groves of trees brought in great numbers from all parts of France and Flanders would lend credence to the hereditary association of the Michaux family with the French Court.

Both father and son are principally concerned with the study and the collection of trees in America. The son definitely appears as the first conservationist and forester to appear on the North American continent.

They are of particular interest to Pennsylvanians, because we alone have recognized them with respect for their pioneer work, because Philadelphia men of science greatly aided them in their work, and because Pennsylvania was a land they knew well.

However, authorities may disagree in detail, one fact is certain that Andre Michaux was pitifully bereft when his beloved bride of less than a year died shortly after the birth of Francois Andre Michaux on August 16, 1770.

The sad young widower became absorbed in the study of botany and made field trips in England as well as France. He joined the staff of the French consulate at Ispahan, Persia, only to relinquish the post that he might explore from 1782 to 1785, the region between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers.

Subsequently the French Government commissioned him to study the forest trees of North America. He was to determine the trees that could be successfully introduced into France, likewise shrubbery and game birds to enhance the royal domain. Wood desirable for naval construction was another item he was delegated to investigate.

The young Francois Andre who had just completed his fifteenth year accompanied his father to New York. Paul Saulnier, a practical gardener, was also of the party. He is responsible for the importation of the Lombardy poplar into the United States.

Michaux established his experimental garden near Hackensack, New Jersey, and spent a year and a half organizing his work.

Then he departed for Charleston, South Carolina, in 1787, and followed the same procedure there. While he garnered for his home land, he also gave. The tallow-tree, the minosa, the camellia, and the tea plant were introduced to our southland through Michaux.

In 1790, the son Francois Andre Michaux, returned to France where he became interested in the Revolution on the side of the republicans. The father Andre Michaux, must have despaired when he received his son's report that half of the 60,000 young trees had been sent by Marie Antoinette to the Emperor of Austria. The rest had been divided among the nobles. The glorious wood of Michaux' trees which he had dreamed of in the forest of Rambouillet was never to be realized.

Andre Michaux with the unfaltering optimism of the natural scientist went to Canada in 1792 and ventured even to Hudson Bay.

His association with the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, after heart-breaking disappointments, finally materialized in mid-July of 1793 in the expedition to the mid-west.

He returned to France, three years later, was shipwrecked off Egmont, Holland, where he lost his precious garnerings of notes and specimens.

In Paris, he was honored and delegated to accompany an expedition to Australia. He sailed in October 1800 but insisted on leaving the expedition when they arrived at Madagascar. There he died in November of 1802.

After his father's departure for Australia, the son, Francois Andre Michaux, was commissioned by the French Government to strip and sell the tree plantations in New Jersey and South Carolina which his father had established.

He spent the winter of 1801 along the Atlantic seaboard seeking American correspondents in the principal seaports to continue the work.

The part of his life's work that is of especial interest to the people of Pennsylvania was accomplished in the summer of 1802. Towards the end of June in 1802, Francois Andre Michaux left Philadelphia for the summer of travels that are described in his "Journey to the West of the Allegheny Mountains."

Michaux' comment on Philadelphia is interesting. He notes: "You never meet any poor in Philadelphia, not a creature wearing the aspect of misery in his face; that distressing spectacle, so common in European cities, is unknown in America; love, industry, the want of sufficient hands, the scarcity of workmanship, an active commerce, property, are the direct causes that contend against the introduction of beggary, whether in town or county."

Michaux traveled from Philadelphia to Shippensburg by stage. There this provision for travel ceased and the explorer must find his own way of going. As a matter of fact he walked most of the 170 miles to Pittsburgh.

"From Shippensburg," he writes, "the mountains are very flinty, and the soil extremely bad; the trees of an indifferent growth, and particularly the white oak that grows upon the summit, and the calmia latifolia on the other parts."

He notes constantly the calmia latifolia (mountain laurel) which from Michaux' observations would seem properly to have been chosen as the Pennsylvania State flower.

On the stage of his journey from Fort Littleton to the River Juniata he reports: "We found very few plantations; nothing but a succession of ridges, the spaces between which were filled up with a number of little hills. Being on the summit of one of these lofty ridges, the inequality of this group of mountains, crowned with innumerable woods, and overshadowing the earth, it affords nearly the same picture that the troubled sea presents after a dreadful storm.

"Two miles before you come to the river Juniata, the road is divided into two branches, which meet again at the river side.

"The right leads across the mountains, and the left, which we took, appeared to have been, and may be still the bed of a deep torrent, the ground being wet and marshy.

"The banks were covered with the andromeda, vaccinium, and more particularly with a species of rhododendrum, that bears a flower of the clearest white; the fibres of the stamina are also white, and the leaves more obtuse, and not so large as the rhodendrum maximum.

"The banks of the river Juniata are lofty and very airy.

"The magnolia acuminata is very common in the environs, it is known in the country by the name of the cucumber tree. The inhabitants of the remote parts of Pennsylvania pick the cones when green to infuse in whiskey, which gives it a pleasant bitter. This bitter is very much esteemed in the country as a preventive against intermittent fevers; but I have my doubts whether it would be so generally used if it had the same qualities when mixed with water.

"From the crossing of the river Juniata to Bedford Court House, the country, although mountainous, is still better, and more inhabited, than that we travelled over from Shippensburgh.

"We arrived at Bedford in the dusk of the evening, and took lodgings at an inn. The day of our arrival was a day of rejoicing for the country people, who had assembled together in this little town to celebrate the suppression of the tax laid upon the whiskey distilleries; rather than an arbitrary tax that had disaffected the inhabitants of the interior against the late resident Mr. Adams."

This allusion is to the repeal of the excise tax that lead to the "Whiskey Rebellion." The repeal was one of the first financial measures of Jefferson's administration.

Early in July, Michaux arrived at Laurel Ridge.

"The direction of this ridge," he observes, "is parallel with those we had left behind us; the woods which cover it are more tufted, and the vegetation appears more lively.

"The name given to this mountain I have no doubt proceeds from the great quantity of calmia latifolia from eight to ten feet high which grows exclusively in all the vacant places and that of the rhododendrum maximum, which enamel the borders of the torrents.

"The inhabitants call the rhododendrum laurel as frequently as the calmia latifolia. Some describe the latter shrub by the name of calico-tree, the leaves of which, they say, are a very subtle poison to sheep, who die almost instantaneously after eating them."

He made an excursion in this neighborhood back into the mountains to find a shrub, the fruit of which he had been told produced excellent oil.

Michaux remarked that "it would have been a treasure to find a shrub which, to the valuable qualities of the olive tree, united that of enduring the cold of the most northern countries."

He notes visiting Probe's furnace in the mountains. At this furnace, which was established by a Frenchman from Alsace, all kinds of vessels in brass and copper are manufactured. The largest contained about 200 pints and are sent into Kentucky and Tennessee to be used in the preparation of salt by evaporation. The smaller ones are the pots and kettles for domestic uses.

Michaux rambled around the mountain more or less lost, but good woodsman that he was arrived at his objective by evening.

He was hospitably welcomed by Patrick Archibald. He experienced no great difficulty in finding the shrub which is believed to have been a kind of sumac. Francois Michaux recognized it as one his father had tried to grow but without success. However, he ordered a half bushel of seeds gathered to be forwarded to his correspondent in Philadelphia. He also notes an exquisite species of azalea with a delicious perfume which is unknown to him.

(Continued on page 14)

THE STATE'S COLONIAL IRON INDUSTRY

First Forge Built Near Pottstown In 1716; Early Cornwall Ore Deposits Still Producing

PENNSYLVANIA was preparing the background for our tremendous modern iron and steel industry through the independent iron-makers who set up forges and furnaces on tracts purchased from the Penns in the early eighteenth century.

William Penn as Proprietor was not ignorant of the mineral resources of his Commonwealth. Despite the absence of any record of his having participated in iron making in Pennsylvania, there are said to be references to a mining venture which seems logical because of his connection with iron furnaces at Hawkhurst in England.

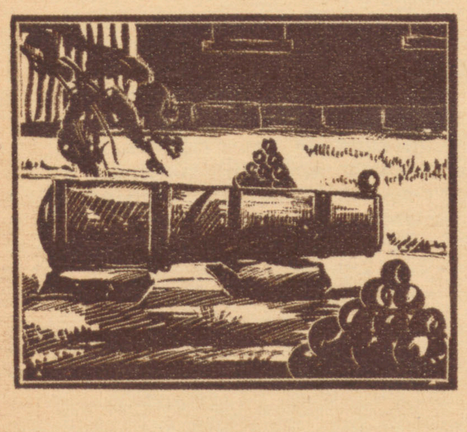
Thomas Rutter, an English Quaker, established the first iron works on record in Pennsylvania about 1716. He built a bloomary forge called "Pool" on Manatawny Creek near the site of Pottstown.

American iron was exported to England in 1717. As early as 1719 legislation was inaugurated in England to prevent the development of the iron industry in the American Colonies. Not until 1750 was such an act passed.

Thomas Rutter and his associates do not seem to have been discouraged by hampering legislation. Rutter and Thomas Potts, satisfied that their bloomary forge was successful, decided to expand. In 1719, they went to Philadelphia to seek capital.

Their ambition was to erect a blast furnace.

About five hundred pounds was necessary to cover the cost of building a furnace Their goal



GRUBB'S CANNON

Shot for the Revolutionary Army

achieved, they named the first furnace in Pennsylvania, "Colebrookdale" from a furnace of the same name in Shropshire where hollowware by the use of sand moulds was first made, about 1709.

The section of Pennsylvania where Rutter and Potts commenced to operate was ideal for their purpose. The country was thickly wooded providing the material for charcoal, there were ore beds, limestone, and streams for water power.

The early bloomaries in Pennsylvania are described by historians as being similar to the forges which originated in Catalonia, Spain, during the tenth century. They were like gigantic blacksmith fires with deep fire pots in which the blast was introduced at the side instead of the bottom of the fire. The yield was small but so was the expense of operation.

In these fires, pig iron was converted into blooms or lumps of malleable iron.

These blooms, in turn, were fabricated into vessels by blacksmiths.

The furnaces in which the pig iron was produced such as that of "Colebrookdale" were built into the side of a hill because the upper level served as a feeding place for the ore, limestone and charcoal which went into the stack.

Even in those early days insulation was recognized. The stack was lined with heat-resisting stone or brick and a space was allowed between lining and stack to be filled with crushed stone or coarse mortar.

The forerunners of our modern system of re-inforcing were found in the strong iron girders embedded in the stack.

Then as now the quantity of materials poured into the furnace stack was measured and designated a "charge."

The iron which resulted from these "charges" or "heats" was run into "pigs" in the sand bed and could only be used for casting until the bloomaries or forges had contributed their operation of producing the blooms or lumps of malleable iron.

The processes down to the workable bloom was a tedious one and the preparation of quantities of varied materials involved patient toil.

For example two and one-half tons of ore and 180 bushels of charcoal produced about one ton of metal. An average furnace could only turn out 28 tons a week.

The limestone had to be quarried to be used as a flux to eliminate impurities.

The ore had to be washed by a contrivance run by a water wheel. The teeth of a great iron comb stirred the ore about in the water, before ejecting it onto a pile to be carried to the furnace.

The charcoal, a vital element, in the making of early iron, was one of the time-devouring materials.

The burning depended upon the knowledge of the collier and also upon the state of the weather. The quality of the wood was likewise important. Fine-grained wood, bearing less water and sap, made better coal.

After the trees were chopped down, they were cut into four-foot lengths and laid in cords by the woodsmen.

Colliers stacked the wood in a conical form of about 25 feet in diameter and sticks were set in the center to form a chimney. Then brush and earth were thrown over the cone to confine the smouldering fire within the cone. Within two or three days, charcoal was produced by this primitive chemistry.

Needless to say quantities of wood were required for firing these charcoal furnaces. Within a year around two hundred and fifty acres of woodland would be cleared in this fashion. Usually it was turned over immediately to those preferring farming to industry.

The demand for hollow ware or more familiarly, pots and kettles, and cast stoves was great in the new country. The cast stoves are authentic examples of early Pennsylvania decorative art. The German workmen carried their moulds from furnace to furnace. Museums of art now treasure their pictorial rendition of biblical episodes in iron.

Thomas Rutter before his death in 1730, owned with his partner, Thomas Potts, nine or ten forges and furnaces. Potts became a great industrialist and built himself near Colebrookdale a grand house called Popodickon, a derivative of the local Indian king's name, Popodick.

There is not an iron master of those early days who is devoid of interest.

One of the names as eminent in the history of colonial iron-making as Andrew Carnegie's name is of modern industry, is that of Robert Coleman.

Coleman's activities are closely associated with great personages among the early iron masters.

He was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1748 and emigrated to America at 16. His education was excellent but he revolted at the commonplace life of a clerk in an office.

Coleman's initiative led him to the iron ore district where he rapidly advanced under the patronage of James Old, one of the expert iron makers. He married Anne, the daughter of James Old, in October 1773. His brother-in-law, William Old was already married in March of the same year to Elizabeth, daughter of unfortunate Heinrich Wilhelm Stiegel. Their lives were to be entwined but success was the portion of Robert Coleman and failure that of Stiegel.

After his marriage, Coleman rented the Salford Forge near Norristown. There he manufactured chain bars which were fabricated to span the Delaware River for the defense of Philadelphia, when the British fleet approached.

By 1776, he had been sufficiently successful to take over a lease on the Elizabeth Furnace, once the proud possession of Heinrich Wilhelm Stiegel.

Stiegel had acquired the Elizabeth Furnace near Brickersville, Lancaster County, from his father-in-law, Jacob Huber, in 1757, about seven years after Huber had built it. Stiegel's ambitions brought him to bankruptcy and the debtor's prison in 1774 and he missed the war boom that was to be Coleman's boon.

Robert Coleman writes of his acquisition of Stiegel's furnace: "In the year 1776, possessed of but a small capital and recently married, I took a lease for the Elizabeth Furnace estate for the term of seven years, not anticipating at that time that before the expiration of the lease I should have it in my power to become owner in fee simple of the whole or a greater part of the estate.

"Success, however, crowned my endeavors,"

Then Coleman anticipates the modern industrial world when he comments: "A new and regular system was adopted, by which the business of iron work was made to resemble more a well-conducted manufactory than the scenes of confusion and disorder which had before that time prevailed in that business."

Stiegel was reduced by his ill fortune to being a foreman under Coleman, who became complete owner in 1794.

Robert Coleman did not stop with his acquisition of the Elizabeth Furnace but found richer fields in which to exercise his activities. With all his concentration on business he served his country faithfully during the Revolution and even raised a regiment during the "Whiskey Insurrection" in the west.

He was fully aware of the great ore banks of Cornwall in what is now Lebanon County.

These banks provided a place for foreign travelers to marvel about the wonders of America. The three solid hills of magnetic iron ore, "Large Iron Hill," "Middle Hill," and "Grassy Hill" were apparently discovered and certainly developed by Peter Grubb

Peter Grubb, born at Marcus Hook, of English parents, made his first foray into iron making with a bloomary forge in 1735 near the site which he was later to name Cornwall to honor his ancestral duchy.

The Cornwall furnace was first used in 1742.

Peter Grubb remained the sole owner of the furnace and ore banks until his death in 1754. His sons Curtis and Peter succeeded him and cast cannon, shot, shell, and stoves for the Continental Army in addition to volunteering their services as colonels.

Robert Coleman eventually succeeded in acquiring control of the Cornwall iron banks through purchase from the Grubb heirs in 1798.

Curiously enough, Coleman never lived at Cornwall but continued to reside at the Elizabeth Furnace. He even planned and carried out gardens at Cornwall but moved to Lancaster when he retired in 1809 and remained there until his death in 1825.

His heirs continued in the business he had inaugurated.

The Cornwall iron ore banks are still being quarried after almost 200 years of continuous use. They were the most productive iron ore mines in the United States and had produced greater quantities of ore than any other mine down to 1908.

Today they are actively producing for their owners, the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Of the many colonial iron forges, there is one whose name is lost to history because of poignant historical events. Mount Joy in Chester County is verily forgotten.

Mount Joy forge was built on Valley Creek in 1742 by Daniel Walker, Lewis Evans, and Joseph Williams. John Potts purchased it in 1757 and using the forge as a nucleus built a community with a grist mill, blacksmith shop, cooper shop and store.

The Revolution curtailed Potts' flourishing business. Mount Joy was the battlefield of Brandywine in September of 1777. General Howe's men destroyed Mount Joy forge.

There it was that General Washington gathered his forces for that bitter winter encampment that eventually won the war.

At the close of the Revolution the destroyed Mount Joy forge was replaced by another on Valley Creek. This new forge was called "Valley Forge" and so a new name symbolizing American courage was given to American history.

AT CORNWALL

The Old Ore Works Are Still Producing

A New Deal For Farmers

(Continued from Page 9)

(The program in Pennsylvania has paid $41,533 in delinquent real estate taxes.) The stores from which Frank bought would have lost a potential customer. The family of twelve would have had to have found other jobs than the ones they were suited for.

The $4,900 the Rural Rehabilitation lent Frank James can be paid back out of this year's earnings. His other creditors are sure of a certain return on what looked like a hopeless investment. And the holders of the mortgages are getting interest and principal payments again.

So the story goes to the entire 654 cases which have been closed by the Farm-Debt Adjustment unit. Every week there is a sheriff's sale being stopped somewhere through joint action of the unit and of local bankers, mortgage holders and other creditors. Just a fortnight ago an official from the Harrisburg headquarters was out at 4:30 in the morning to help halt a foreclosure sale that was scheduled for 10 a. m.

What makes the Farm Debt Adjustment unit click is that it counts on voluntary action and cooperation. In every county there are county advisory committees, which work closely with the Farm Loan county committees. The 90 cases which were recorded in the news release as dropped are significant. The Farm-Debt unit is disinterested—one hand does not wash the other. Creditors have come to learn that when it makes a recommendation for financial clemency, they can count on its judgment as accurate. When cases are definitely hopeless, it realizes that it cannot impose on the creditors by painting a false picture of the situation.

There are several agencies working to improve the farmer's financial position.

The Federal Land Banks make loans to farmers secured by farm mortgages. Pennsylvania is in District No. 2, with the Bank in Baltimore. Federal Land Bank mortgages are now written at 3½ percent, with 34 years to pay off. With the amortization schedule, it takes about 4½ percent altogether during the 34 years in which the loan is paid off. There are some 5,000 local National Farm Loan Associations. Five percent of the loan is held as stock in the local Farm Loan Association, so that every farmer belonging has an incentive to see that all keep up their farms and their payments.

Likewise there is the Production Credit Corporation, which has eleven local associations in this State. Its function is to extend short term credit for growing crops, or the purchase of dairy cattle or other farm livestock. On dairy cattle, the loan may be made for three years, as it takes about that time for a producing cow to bring some return and pay off a loan.

Production credit extends credit to the farmer not on endorsement, but on the security he actually has on his farm—his cattle, poultry, equipment and crops. Payment is based not on commercial terms of 30, 60 or 90 days, but on his sale of milk, livestock, crops and other products. In short, production credit on farmer's terms rather than commercial terms.

The Rural Rehabilitation unit make loans where other farm credit agencies are unable to provide adequate and warranted refinancing. Loans do not exceed five years. Rehabilitation agents, when loans are made, work out a definite farm management and production plan between the farmer and the Rehabilitation supervisor.

When a farmer needs to borrow money to save his farm, and to pay his creditors, the Farm-Debt Adjustment unit attempts to direct him to the source of funds for which he is most eligible. The entire personnel of the Farm-Debt Adjustment unit is trained both in farm work, in analyzing farm property. Most of the executives own paying farms. In outlining concessions from creditors, it never goes beyond what a farm can reasonably carry.

These agencies for bringing together distressed farmers and their creditors in voluntary cooperative agreement do as businesslike work as one could find anywhere. They have the confidence of farmers, of banks, of attorneys for estates, of the companies which do the most selling to farmers. It is amusing to reflect that these agencies are under Rexford Tugwell's Resettlement Administration—which Tories like to assail for its "theorizing" and "radicalism"—but which is actually one of the most practical agencies of the New Deal.

Actually, it is the Tory critics who have been theorizing, without studying—or at least by keeping themselves blind to actual conditions. Officers and offices of Farm-Debt Adjustment in Pennsylvania are: John F. Joestling, assistant director over eleven States, with headquarters at the State Theater Building in Harrisburg; Miles W. Fry, State Supervisor, at the same office; Bruce W. Dildine, district supervisor, at Benton, Columbia County; John L. Miller, at Claysville, Washington County; John W. Ruffin, at Pottstown.

It is interesting to note that one reason farmers are able to obtain voluntary agreements with their creditors is that with present prices for farm produce under the New Deal, they again have earning power to warrant the extension of credit again.

Last year the cash income of Pennsylvania farmers was $223,500,000, against $158,590,000 in 1932. In 1933 the increase over 1932 was $18,169,000. The 1934 income was $44,979,000 more than in 1932. In other words, three years of the New Deal have brought a total accumulated gain in cash income of $128,058,000.

Meantime Pennsylvania farm land is worth 8 percent more today than it was in 1932.

Prices of farm produce show enormous increases from the low Hoover prices. Farmers have been getting $9.10 per 100 lbs. for hogs this year—against $2.75 in 1932. Beef cattle prices have jumped from $4.15 per 100 lbs. to $7.10. Sheep are up from $2.45 to $3.85. In the Spring of 1932 corn was selling at 25.1 cents a bushel, and wheat at 37 cents. On May 15, 1936, corn sold at 54c a bushel, and wheat at 83c—and they have gone far higher. Potatoes, selling at 50c a bushel in June, 1932, sold at $1.50 a bushel in June, 1936. The average price for 1932 was 51c a bushel; the average to June of 1936 was 97c—and prices have gone higher.

Guide Posts

(Continued from page 11)

The Program in Pennsylvania calls for 500 towns to be marked. The State is divided into squares, so that air markers will be approximately 20 miles apart. The cost of the project is $48,000, of which some $8,000 will be for paint. The remainder will go for labor. The project will employ about 500 men for two months.

This is one of the few projects that is permitted to be put on private property, since most of the available roofs are privately owned. It takes a crew of some five men for a marker. First the 2-man layout crew plots the sign and takes the transit for direction and distance. Next day they are followed by the painting crew, which spreads a first coat of aluminum base paint. On a composition roof the aluminum paint both prevents the tar from bleeding through, and makes the second chrome yellow coat more visible and more lasting. The men rotate from sign to sign, putting on the first, and then the second coats. About eight or nine gallons of paint are required for one sign.

The project was established last September, but little actual painting work could be done until the good weather of this summer. Pennsylvania will be among the first States to get its project completed—because Pennsylvania has a tremendous air traffic, and its citizens are air-minded. In other States the "salesgirls" have had to sell executives, and sometimes even take actual charge of the work.

This Air Marking Project is only a small unit in the WPA program. But it demonstrates aptly the essential elements of the entire WPA. It gives a high proportion of actual labor. It is practical and useful. And it will be a permanent improvement, making life (in this case, lives of aviators and passengers) safer and better.

Unionization In Progress

(Continued from page 4)

McKeesport tells the same kind of story. McKeesport is the home of a U. S. Steel National Tube plant. It is also the home and the barony of Edwin Robert Crawford, who as president of McKeesport Tin Plate Company, makes $225,000 a year—$750 for every working day. McKeesport Tin Plate is a phenomenally prosperous company, as is its president. But not so the 3,200 men who work there. Like most steel workers, they live on wages that just permit them to rear their families in poverty.

McKeesport's Republican Mayor for 10 years has been George H. Lyle, Tory of Tories, who works closely under the influence of McKeesport Tin Plate. Its Republican Council, its police force, its entire government, is dominated by Tin Plate. In neighboring Duquesne, President Crawford's brother James Crawford is Mayor. It is Mayor Crawford of Duquesne who with the same contempt for sacred matters as he has for the sacred rights of workers to live decently, declared a few years ago: "Jesus Christ himself couldn't speak in Duquesne for the A. F. of L."

It was in McKeesport the other week that Tin Plate attempted to coerce its employes into signing a petition denouncing the union.

Immediately scores of workers telephoned the Steel Workers Organizing Committee to tell them of it. They assured the Committee that if such a resolution were produced, it would not reflect the attitude of the men.

The Committee exposed this attempt on the part of the company. The company then withdrew the petition.

Hundreds of like petitions are being circulated by steel companies in an attempt to force the workers into signing them. But workers are refusing, denouncing them as the same tactics the steel companies used to employ in demanding that their men vote the Republican ticket.

Weirton Steel, the company owned by Ernest Tener Weir, has plants in Weirton, W. Va., and Steubenville, Ohio. In Steubenville the night-rider tactics employed by Steel have already been displayed.

Claude R. Kramer, 55, has been a steel worker since 1895. In 1905 he became an assistant superintendent in the old Labelle Iron Works at Wheeling. In 1932 and 1933 he was safety director of Massilon, Ohio, in charge of police and firemen. He is married and has four children. He began organizing for the Steel Workers Committee on June 22.

He had gone to Hollidays Cove, near Weirton and Steubenville, to organize, when one night several weeks ago a police car stopped him. He was hauled to the police station, and grilled for an hour. When he was released, he returned to his Steubenville hotel room. Eight huskies pushed in, headed by a man who had stopped Mr. Kramer in Hollidays Cove. They took all his papers. They packed his bag. They hustled him out of the hotel and onto a train, warning him not to utter any sound. They warned him to stay out of town, and threatened him if he should come back.

Those are just a few of the tactics the steel companies will not hesitate to employ in the terroristic tactics against the peaceful efforts of workers to organize in their efforts toward a better life.

John L. Lewis has said that he is a fool or madman who thinks he can dam up the desires and ambitions of 60,000,000 workers in this country.

The Bourbons of old acted as the Steel Barons are now acting.

They lost. The steel companies will lose—will lose respect, will lose money, will lose their claims to Americanism—if they pursue their present tactics.

Steel will be organized, for its own good, and for the good of the workers.

Ghosts In Philadelphia

(Continued from page 7)

liers have even attempted to claim the entire $6,500,000 now in the P. R. T. treasury though in rental claims the underliers value their property at $180,000,000, for tax purposes they value them at only $30,000,000.

Many matters will have to be ironed out before anything can be done about the Philadelphia transit situation. The city, underlier, and P. R. T. directors must agree on a plan. The old organization plan filed in Federal Court must be withdrawn in favor of the new one. The city must buy out the underliers. Then P. R. T. must file a new reorganization petition along the lines of a plan agreed to in advance. Finally, the city, the P. R. T. stockholders, the Public Service Commission, and Judge Welsh must approve it.

But one fact stands out in the deep transit jungle. The tangle has come about through original franchises often granted in corruption; franchises which have paid their owners time and time again; franchises which have been passed on to other companies at bloated prices, together with stock watered and sold, and watered and sold.

It illustrates that the mass of toiling citizens in the end pays for the huge fortunes garnered by the wealthy few.

Mr. Weir's Senate Relief Blockade

(Continued from page 3)

He "encouraged" his workers to join the company union for "employe representation"—but when his workers scented the falsity of "employe representation" when the company union was dominated by the steel masters, he cracked down on their efforts to organize a lodge of the Amalgamated Iron, Steel & Tin Workers' Association under NRA.

He promised the old Steel Labor Board that his employes could hold such an election—then realized that his men would flock to the independent union, so welched on his word, and refused a fair election. Instead, he clamped the workers into the iron corset of a company union.

Mr. Weir is eminently successful. Mr. Weir is tough. Mr. Weir is brainy. Mr. Weir handles his workers with an iron ruthlessness that makes other tough steelmen gasp with awe—and his competitors in a manner that makes them gasp with mingled pain and respect.

Mr. Weir may get away with it in business. He may get away with it on his workers, until Steel is fully organized.

But when Mr. Weir and his ally Mr. Pew attempt to get away with the same rough stuff on the citizens of Pennsylvania—when they exact a toll of starvation as the price of their industrial tactics—they will learn that Pennsylvania will not stand it.

Pennsylvania will give Mr. Weir and Mr. Pew the same treatment this Fall by booting their subservient Senators out of the upper chamber, and installing true servants of the people instead.

Then indeed the Senate may look at the motto on the wall and heed its words.

Summer Days for Wall-Eyes

(Continued from Page 15)

fish return later to deposit the eggs. C. R. Buller, Chief Fish Culturist, says that he has never found an egg-bound female, or in other words, a female pike that had not deposited the eggs when in proper condition to do so. A great deal can be told about the life of a fish by observing places it seeks to deposit its eggs. Nature intended the pike-perch to inhabit clean bodies of water. Consequently, their eggs are scattered on rock, sand, or gravel bottoms. If the body of water they naturally inhabit had a muddy or riley bottom, these eggs would soon be covered with silt sufficient to smother them. Modern conditions have altered nature's scheme so radically on many of the tributaries suitable as spawning grounds for the pike, that it is believed many eggs deposited naturally are destroyed by silt carried by the rapidly fluctuating waters.

In early spring when the temperature rises, the adult fish, gathered at the mouths of the tributary streams by instinct, start their upward migration. Meanwhile, the rise in temperature melts the snow from the hillsides once timbered with great trees. Rapidly melting snow soon raises the tributaries, and the pike-perch must buffet a heavy wall of water to move upstream. This, the more active males succeed in doing, but the females, laden with spawn, soon tire, dropping back to more quiet water. Here frequently the eggs are deposited without sufficient males being present to fertilize them. Frequently in the swift current, eggs that have been properly fertilized farther upstream are washed into larger water areas and destroyed.

The delicate tissue of the pike-perch egg evidently does not carry on into the young fish. Once hatched, nature apparently provides the tiny pike-perch with an amazing stamina. So capable are they of caring for themselves, that real success has been achieved in stocking them while still in the fry stage. It is believed that the chief forage of the baby pike-perch during the first year are minute aquatic organisms and small particles of animal life washed into streams and lakes by heavy rains and the melting of the snow.

In recent years, the comeback of the pike-perch in Pennsylvania has been one of the most promising factors in the better fishing program.

Francois and Andre Michaux, Foresters

(Continued from Page 12)

Michaux misses nothing en route. Near Greensburg, he discovers a coal mine and is told that "this substance was so common and so easy to procure that many of the inhabitants burnt it from economical motives."

He makes further use of this knowledge when he became Robert Fulton's first paid traveler on Fulton's return voyage from Albany to New York on the occasion of the debut of the "Claremont." Michaux advises Fulton to use coal to make his steam as a much cheaper and safer fuel than wood.

Michaux in this advice, of course, followed his inclination to preach conservation of wood.

In his introduction to the "Sylva of North America," Francois Andre Michaux writes: "I have endeavoured to impress on the American farmers the advantages of preserving and multiplying some species and of destroying others, for, in my opinion, a bad tree should not be suffered to exist where a good one might grow, and in no country is selection more necessary than in North America.

"It may not be improper to observe that the Europeans have great advantages over the Americans in the management of woods. The principal forests are in the hands of the governments, which watch over their preservation with solicitude dictated by imperious necessity.

"Experience has amply demonstrated that no dependence can be placed, for the public service or the general supply, upon forests that are private property; falling sooner or later into the hands of persons eager to enjoy their price, they disappear and give place to tillage.

"In America, on the contrary, neither the federal government nor the several states have reserved forests. An alarming destruction of trees for building has been the consequence an evil which is increasing and will continue to increase with the increase of population.

"The effect is already very sensibly felt in the large cities, where the complaint is every year becoming more serious, not only of the excessive dearness of fuel, but of the scarcity of timber. Even now inferior wood is frequently substituted for the white oak; and the ship-building."

Francois Andre Michaux returned to his home land in 1809 where he spent the rest of his life until his death, October 23, 1855. He devoted his experience to the management of an estate and an experimental farm.

He received with pleasure visiting Americans who regaled him with tales of the nineteenth century's progress. He never forgot his American friends and bequeathed part of his fortune to the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. He died as he lived a more famous man in America than in his native France.

Our Pike-Perch
Its Origin and Habits

THESE warm summer days, on the Susquehanna River, the Upper Delaware, the Upper Allegheny, on Lake Wallenpaupeck or Lake Erie, you'll see men trolling from rowboats. They'll be rowing in ever-widening circles, else steadily up and down—till suddenly you'll see one in vicious battle with a hefty fish.

What he has struck and landed will be one of Pennsylvania's most popular game fish, the pike-perch, popularly known as the wall-eyed pike.

This deep water feeder, which generally lies in the deeper pools or near rock ledges, is most frequently caught on a spoon troll and long-shanked hook at the end of a long leader. The hook is often covered with a nightcrawler or eel, kept in place by a fine wire wound around it. Though it does not strike savagely, but with a steady tug that makes the unwary believe they have hooked into a sunken log, once struck the wall-eye puts up a vicious underwater battle. Its popularity is attested to by the fact that last year the State Fish Commission stocked 14,508,475 pike-perch fry in Pennsylvania waters.

When was the pike-perch, otherwise known as the wall-eyed pike or Susquehanna salmon, first introduced to Pennsylvania waters? Mystery, to a certain extent, veils its coming to streams that today offer no game fish of finer flavor for the angler to catch. Contrary to general belief, it was not native to our waters. The most authentic account places its introduction at 1812.

Over roads that were little more than trails at that time, report has it, a Jesuit priest and an Englishman transferred, by wagon probably, a few mature pike-perch to the waters off the Chemung, a tributary to the North Branch of the Susquehanna River at Elmira, N. Y., then known as Newton. Early American conservation has few more stirring episodes than this stocking of the Chemung with a species of game fish that was later to invade the Susquehanna and its larger tributaries as far south as the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. In confirmation of this story is the fact that pike-perch became known in Pennsylvania as Susquehanna salmon, and early history's annals do not mention it in the waters of other state streams. Modern transportation and good roads today make it possible to stock fish successfully within a radius of hundreds of miles of the hatcheries, but this unusual feat of carrying mature fish over a distance of even 12 miles, under the difficult conditions then prevailing, is a tribute to the early conservationists who accomplished it.

So abundant did the pike-perch, or salmon as it was then known, become, that it soon rivaled the shad as a food fish of importance in the Susquehanna, and at one time commanded an even higher price on the market than did the shad. In the days of old-fashioned apprenticeships, the following clause was sometimes introduced into the contracts: "That Salmon should not be given more than two or three times a week." Firm and flaky in substance, having few bones and a delicious taste, the pike-perch was much sought as food by early settlers. They called it the "swager salmon."

Of the names given to this popular fish, and they are numerous, pike-perch is perhaps the most appropriate, linking this species with the perch family to which it is related and suggesting certain characteristics of the pike family. Here in Pennsylvania it is known as wall-eyed pike, yellow bass, jack salmon, green pike, occasionally pickerel and white salmon, and frequently Suspuehanna salmon. In the north woods, the Cree Indians call it the okow, while to the French Canadians it is the dore or pickerel.

In the swift-flowing Susquehanna, with its great shallows, deep pools, rock ledges and pebbly bottom, the pike-perch apparently found an ideal home. Their increase in number was so rapid, that within a comparatively short time they literally swarmed in the deeper pools and eddies. Had hook and line fishing prevailed, as it does today, this vast supply of a valuable food and game fish would undoubeedly have remained abundant. Instead they were harried day and night by seines, trap-nets, and gigging. That hook and line fishing was coming into its own is brought out, however, by the following report of the Commissioners of Fisheries for 1895:

"Nescopeck Falls, directly opposite Berwick, near where the Nescopeck Creek empties into the river was a noted place for 'salmon' fishing with hook and line. Men standing on the shore with long poles and lines would often, in drawing out the fish, lodge them in the branches of trees, giving them the appearance of salmon-producing trees. The present generation fish for them by two methods, by still fishing with minnows and by trolling. In angling by the first manner, live minnows are used in preference to all other baits, particularly such as are more or less transparent with silvery sides, as the fall-fish or dace, the corporal roach, the red fin and the gudgeon. When trolling, the favorite method between Columbia and Harrisburg, a small lamprey eel is usually attached to the spoon in place of the feathers, sunk very deep, near a rocky ledge and drawn through the water much more slowly than when after other species of fish.

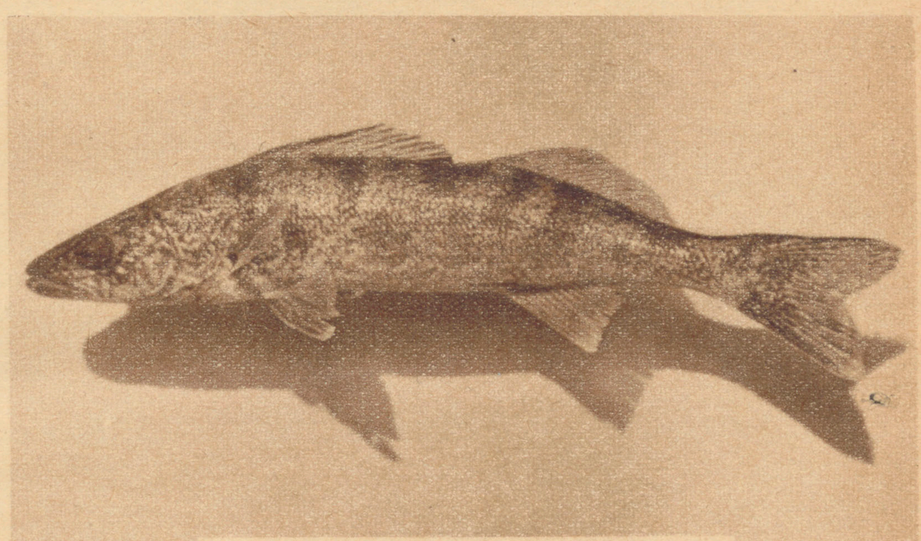
"When a pike-perch first strikes, it is not a strong, vicious try that is felt, such as other members of his family give, but a steady pull such as might be made by a man hauling in a line with his feet braced. This peculiarity often leads the angler to imagine for a time that his hook is fast on a log. But when the fish is brought near the surface it abandons the sullen hangback policy and begins a vigorous fight for its life. It is a peculiarity of many of the boatmen of this section, that when a fish is struck he will begin rowing as endeavoring to escape from an enemy, and unless stopped very quickly will succeed in drowning the pike-perch before the angler has a chance to extract any sport from his catch. This curious habit is due, it is said, from their own habit when fishing to get their prey out of the water as speedily as possible."

When the Board of Fish Commissioners, then known as the Board of State Commissioners of Fisheries, was organized in 1873, attention was almost immediately called to the rapid decrease of the pike-perch in the Susquehanna and its tributaries. At the time, however, owing to absence of proper laws for its protection and knowledge relative to artificial propagation, it was impossible to check the depletion in number of these game fish. A turning point came in 1889, when the United States Bureau of Fisheries succeeded, through use of the McDownald hatching jar, in hatching pike eggs at Sandusky, Ohio. A portion of the fry from these eggs were turned over to the State Commissioners of Fisheries and released in the Susquehanna, Juniata, Delaware, and Schuylkill rivers. Later plantings were made in a number of Pennsylvania inland lakes. With few exceptions, these plantings were successful. The McDownald hatching jar proved a device that was to revolutionize artificial incubation of the eggs. Prior to this time, Pennsylvania fish culturists had learned the process of overcoming the stickiness of pike-perch eggs, but were not familiar with the use of the McDownald hatching jars. The federal government extended every courtesy, sending one of their experts in this work to the Erie hatchery to instruct the superintendent as to the use of these devices. Following installation of the hatching jars, no difficulty was encountered in the incubation process.

Unlike trout, the adult pike-perch cannot be retained in small areas of water at the hatcheries year after year for brood purposes. At the Pleasant Mount hatchery, one of the storage ponds for brood pike covers an area of several hundred acres, having an extreme depth of 20 feet. In this pond, a large number of brood pike are retained and produce eggs annually for stocking suitable streams and lakes.

The pike-perch, while numerous in some of the larger streams of Pennsylvania, is by preference a lake fish and is very abundant in Lake Erie. Its natural habitat is in clean bodies of water having rock, gravel, sand, or hard clay bottom, and it is rarely found in muddy streams or lakes. It is a denizen of the deeper water, and except at spawning time, seeks water areas of moderate depth. Although living near the bottom, this fish cannot be classed as a bottom feeder or scavenger in any sense of the word. Minnows, lamprey eels, crayfish, smaller forage fishes of various species, and the larvae of various kinds of insects that pass through a transformation stage in the water constitute a major portion of its food supply.

In appearance the pike-perch is striking. Its savage jaws and long, slender body, somewhat characteristic of the pike family, and the strong, shapely fins of the perch mark it as a superb game fish. Viewed under water, the first impression created is that its gray-white eyes, from which it derives the name wall-eye, are blind. From another angle, however, these prominent eyes have the appearance of small balls of fire. The lower raise of the tail fin is white. In coloration the fish varies according to its environment. It may be generally said, however, that its ground color is dark olive, finely mottled with brassy, oblique lines. Like the yellow perch, the pike-perch has two dorsal or top fins, the first fin being spinous. Its average weight is from two to five pounds, although specimens weighing well over ten pounds are occasionally taken.

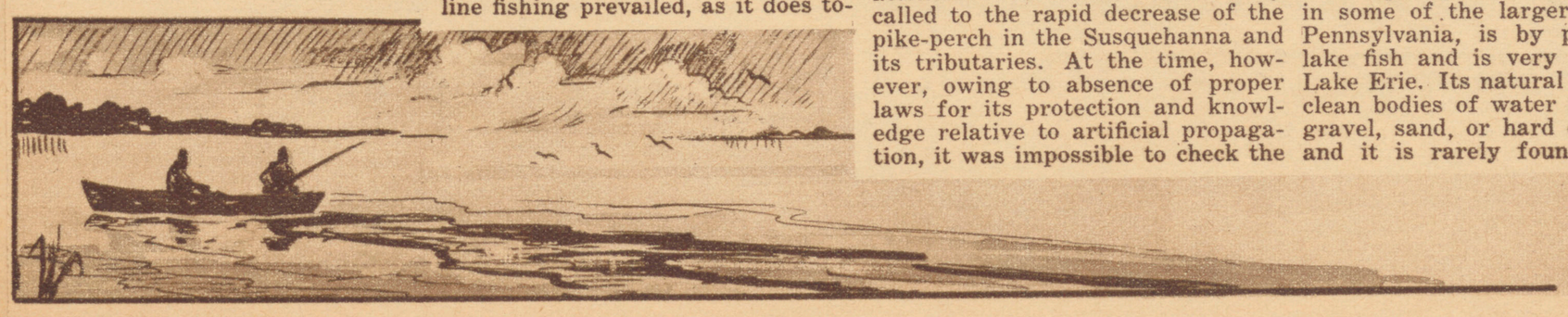


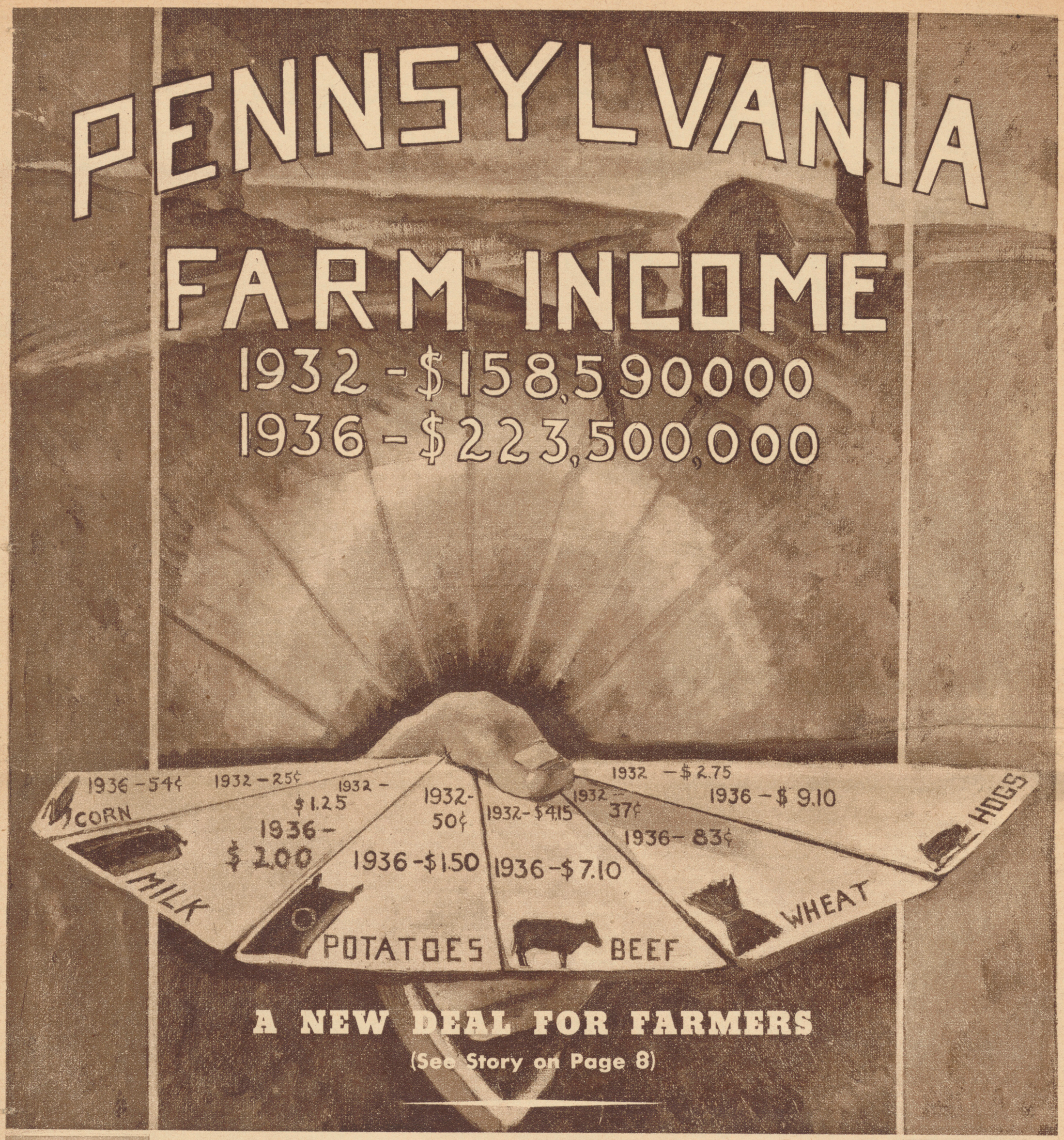
WALL-EYED PIKE OR PIKE-PERCH

The spawning run of the pike-perch is, coincident with that of the sucker schools, in early spring. Wherever possible, the fish apparently prefer to run up smaller tributaries to lakes and streams in which they are found, accompanying the sucker migration. Just what takes place at spawning time is not definitely known, although it has been established that they do not pair off as do the sunfish and bass, but congregate on the spawning shoals in groups.

During spawning, sudden changes in water temperature affect the fish, and in the event of freezing temperature they will leave the beds. It is believed that while extreme cold will defer the spawning, the

(Continued on Page 14)





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